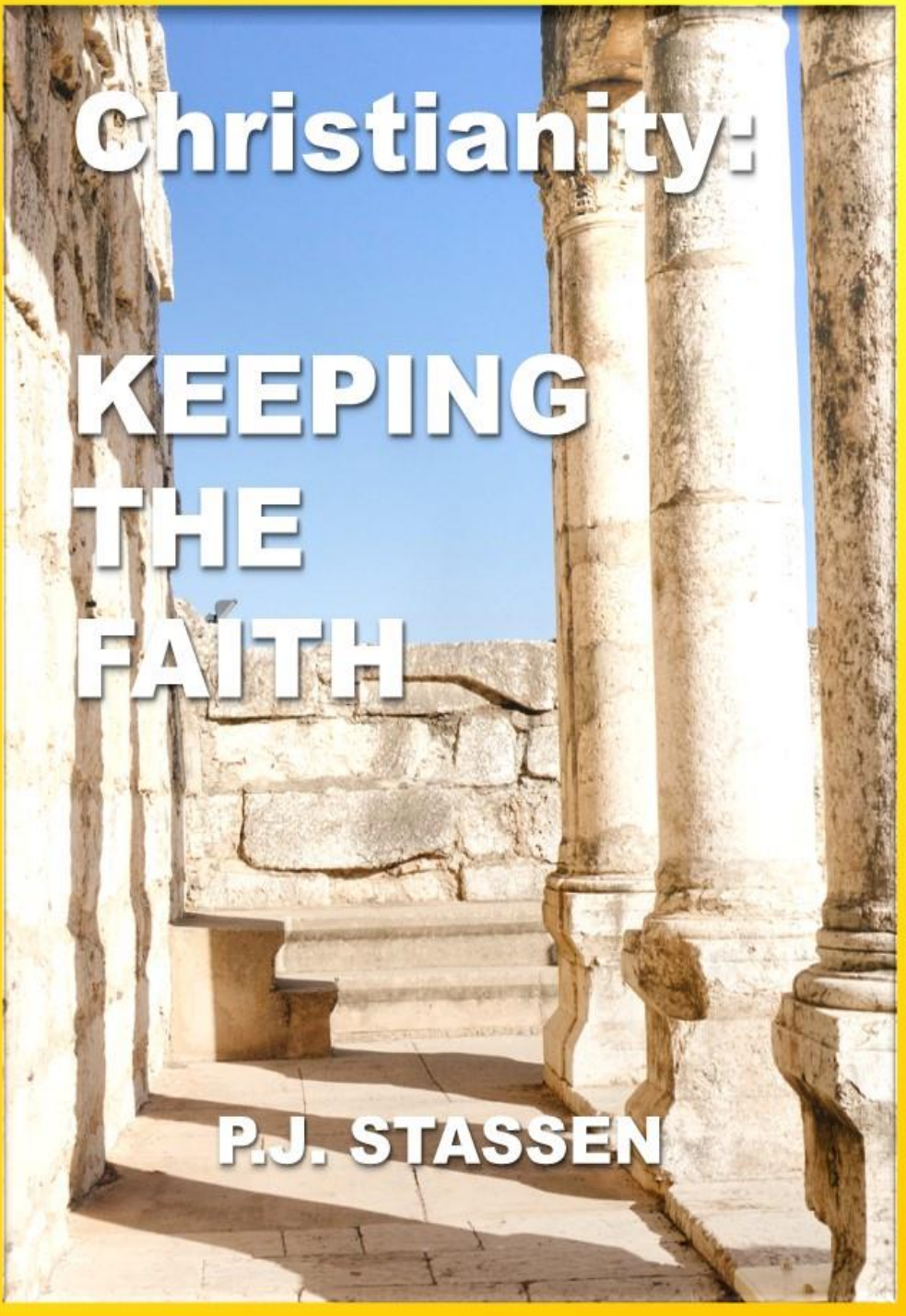
Christianity:
KEEPING
THE
FAITH
P.J. STASSEN

Christianity

Keeping the Faith

An Easy Reader for Busy People on the Run

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1. Bible translations interchangeably consulted:

King James Version (KJV/KJV+) & *Modern King James Version* (MKJV) unless otherwise indicated e.g., *Young's Literal Translation* (YLT) & *Hebraic Roots Bible* (HRB). The reader may find that, occasionally, I have inserted capitals (in brackets) into Scripture references for the purpose of clarity.

2. E-Sword.net: *The Sword of the Lord with an Electronic Edge (Free Bible Study for the PC).* Online 2021.

3. All the sources, scholars, historical figures and authors I have been allowed to mention, quote or use as examples in the course of writing.

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Foreword

An informative book, I believe, should be like a sumptuous dinner ... lavish, interesting, easily digestible and to be remembered for years afterwards, and with this book I have aimed to accomplish exactly that, for what could be more interesting and memorable than the persona, life and ministry of a man who has changed the history of the world to the matchless extent that Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ) had done?

Unlike many postmodernists, who have so superficially dismissed the historical Jesus (for all intents and purposes) as nothing more than a deluded first-century religious fanatic and rabble rouser of a charlatan who was arrested by the authorities, not as political zealot or aspiring messiah, but as a common, albeit charismatic public nuisance who disingenuously passed off cheap street magicians' illusions as Biblical quality miracles, i.e., postmodernists who today, like pagan sorcerers and derelict, toothless oriental mystics, dare to determine the measure of a man and his words by (of all things!) the application of coloured beads.

I, instead, insist that only a carpenter-rabbi of His divine origin, moral stature and matchless wisdom could have transformed this 1970s runaway freight-train and weirds-mobile of a cynical, suburban hedonist and amoral agnostic into a person so enamoured with this Messiah that I, in the sunset season of my life, have aspired to write not only one book about His sacred cause and merciful gospel, but several.

Today, when I read the popular atheists of our times, or debate a seasoned agnostic about the existence of God, I can only heartily agree with the wise theologians who, upon hearing people say that the character of the first-century Jesus of history was so remarkable that He must have been 'forged' (and should be considered a 'fake') instead have so aptly retorted (among others) as follows (my paraphrasing):

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"The man Jesus of Nazareth was so unique, gifted, remarkable and special that only a real Jesus Christ could have forged a Jesus Christ; furthermore, if the Bible really were only a collection of fairy tales, then why is it either banned or severely persecuted in at least 52 countries?"

PJ Stassen
Centurion, South Africa.
December 2021.

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Introduction

I wrote this book, not as a theologian (which I am not), but as a sinner saved by grace and a social commentator concerned with the cause and future of Christianity in the world. This book comprises the following themes:

Part 1. Creation: Reaffirming the worldview of the intelligent design of the Cosmos by an Intelligent Designer (Creator) and Biblical Creationism exactly as the Bible teaches.

Part 2. Christology. Reaffirming the persona, ministry, teachings, moral gravitas, character and divine stature of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ ('Anointed One').

Part 3. Evangelism: Emphasizing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (of salvation by faith and the gift of Everlasting Life through Jesus Christ) to all those who would accept Him as Saviour and Lord irrespective of race, skin tone, nationality, age, gender, current religious affiliation & political persuasion and socio-economic status ... offered to all but forced on none.

Part 4: Eschatology: The study of the 'end times' or 'last things' as precursors to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and, eventually, the Great White Throne Judgment.

The story of the Bible and God's designs for man; the Commandments of Moses and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, can, for all intents and purposes, miraculously integrated to be summarised by a single Scripture reference:

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> *"For as by one man's disobedience [THE FIRST ADAM] many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One [THE LAST ADAM, JESUS CHRIST] shall many be made righteous."*
>
> [Romans5:19MKJV].

I am reminded of what C.S. Lewis has said (my paraphrasing):

> *"There are only two kinds of people, i.e., those who say to God, 'Thy will be done!' and those to whom God must say, "Okay then ... have it your way!"*

The lot and final destiny of every (fully informed & evangelised) person that ever lived will, in other words, be decided on this, i.e., a choice between Good and Evil, Light and Darkness, Jesus and Barabbas, Christ and Satan.

With those who object that anyone could exercise such a critical choice still wrongly from pure ignorance, or from cultural and/or religious biases, I can only in sympathy say that I fully concur, and although I insist that there is no other name but the Name of Jesus Christ by which we are saved, we probably should leave such metaphysical judgments (i.e., in respect of the 'inadequately informed and poorly evangelised') for God to decide and deal with.

There is a huge difference between being a 'sinner' and being 'ungodly'/'wicked'. All the 'ungodly' and 'wicked' are sinners, but not all 'sinners' are necessarily 'ungodly or 'wicked' ... they are simply lost and must be found. God has said:

> *"And He [GOD] said, I will make all My goodness pass before you [MOSES], and I will proclaim the name of Jehovah before you. And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will have mercy on whom I will have mercy."*
>
> [Exodus33:10MKJV].

Bon voyage!

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PART ONE:

CREATION

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Chapter 1

YHWH (JEHOVAH) OF MOSES AND MT. SINAI: MAESTRO OF MAESTROS!

1. **The God of Moses (YHWH) is:**

1.1 An ADVOCATE.
[1John2:1].

1.2 An ARCHITECT (DIVINE).
[Genesis1:1; Isaiah45:12; Romans1:20].

1.3 An ARTIST.
[Psalm8:1; 19:1; 29:3; 48:2; Ecclesiastes3:11].

1.4 An ASTROPHYSICIST.
[Genesis1:1; Psalm19:1-6; 147:4; Isaiah45:12; 2Kings20:9-11; Job26:7].

1.5 A BIOLOGIST, BOTANIST & ZOOLOGIST.
[Genesis1:24-31; Psalm36:6; 50:10-11; 104:14; Psalm107:38].

1.6 A COSMOLOGIST.
[Isaiah55:8-11; Psalm147:4-5].

1.7 A CREATOR.
[Genesis1:1; Isaiah40:26; 42:5; 45:8,12; Psalm148:4-5; Hebrews1:1-4].

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1.8 An EDUCATOR.
[Job28:28; Psalm119:66; Proverbs1:7; 2:5,6; 3:19-20; 9:10; Proverbs8:1-36; Job40:1-2; Job38:1-41; 39:1-30; & 41:1-34; Ecclesiastes2:26].

1.9 A HEAVENLY FATHER.
[Matthew5:45,48; 6:1,14; 6:26,32; 7:11,21; 10:33; 12:50; 15:13; 16:17; 18:10; 18:14,19,35; 23:9; Mark11:25,26; Luke11:13].

1.10 A JUDGE.
[Genesis16:5; 18:25; 31:53; Job23:7; Psalm9:8; 10:18; 50:4,6].

1.11 A (THE) MESSIAH.
[Daniel 9:25-26; John1:41; 4:25-26].

1.12 A MILITARY COMMANDER.
[Joshua5:14,15; 1Samuel17:45; 2Chronicles13:12; Matthew26:53].

1.13 A MUSICIAN/MUSICOLOGIST.
[Genesis4:21; Exodus15:1-2; Deuteronomy31:19, 30; 1Samuel18:6; 1Chronicles15:16; 2Chronicles5:13; 34:12; Psalm144:9; 149:1-3; Amos6:5; Isaiah12:2; 42:10-13; Revelation5:9; 14:3; 15:3.

1.14 A PASTORAL COUNSELLOR.
[Psalm34:18; 147:2-3; Isaiah61:1].

1.15 A PHILOSOPHER.

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[Job40:1-2; 38:1-41; 39:1-30; 41:1-34; Proverbs8:1-30].

1.16 A PHYSICIAN.

[Psalm147:2-3; Isaiah53:5; 2Kings20:7; James5:16; Matthew8:7; 12:13].

1.17 A PROJECTS MANAGER.

[Genesis1:1; Hebrews1:1-4; Luke14:28-30].

1.18 A PROPHET.

[Genesis13:16; Job8:7; Ecclesistes3:11; Isaiah46:9-10,; 48:3; Matthew13:57; 14:5; 21:11,46; Mark6:4,15; Luke13:33; John4:19,44; Acts7:37].

1.19 A PROVIDER.

[Genesis13:16; Genesis22:8,14 (Jehovah-Jireh); Psalm65:19; Job38:41' Proverbs6:8; Matthew6:28; 10:29,31; 12:27; Luke12:6-7; John1:29].

1.20 A QUANTUM PHYSICIST.

[Job32:8; 33:4; 34:14-15].

1.21 A (THE) SAVIOUR.

[2Samuel22:3; Psalm17:7; Isaiah43:3; 45:15,21; 49:26; 63:8; Jeremiah14:8; Hosea13:4; John4:42; Act5:31; 13:23; Ephesians5:23; Philippians3:20; 1Timothy1:1; 2:3-4; 2Timothy1:10; Titus1:3,4; 2:10,13; 3:4,6; 2Peter1:1,11; 3:2,18; 1John4:14; Jude1:25].

1.22 A SPACE TRAVELLER.

[Deuteronomy33:26; 2Kings6:17;

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Psalm68:17; 104:13; Isaiah66:15; Daniel 7:13; Ezekiel 1:1-28; Matthew24:30-31; Mark13:26; 14:62; John14:1-3; 1Thessalonians4:16-18; Revelation1:7].

2. WHAT GOD HAS ACCOMPLISHED. The Bible says:

"For He [GOD THE FATHER] has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son [JESUS CHRIST]; in whom we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins. The Pre-eminence of Christ who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation."

[Colossians1:13-15MKJV].

3. THE WISDOM OF GOD.

"With Him is wisdom and strength; He has wisdom and understanding."

[Job12:13MKJV].

"I will bless Jehovah, who has given me wisdom; my heart also instructs me in the nights ... "To Him who by wisdom made the heavens; for His mercy endures forever ... He appoints the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names. Great is our LORD, and of great power; There is no limit to His understanding.

[Psalm16:7; 136:5; 147:4-5MKJV].

"For Jehovah gives wisdom; out of His mouth come knowledge and understanding ... He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly ... Jehovah has founded the earth by wisdom; by understanding He has founded the heavens.

[Proverbs2:6-7; 3:19MKJV].

"For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those being lost, but to us being saved, it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the understanding of the perceiving ones. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the lawyer of this world? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom did not know God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save those

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who believe. For the Jews ask for a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks foolishness. But to them, the called-out ones, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned

. [1Corinthians1:18-24; 2:14; 3:19-20MKJV].

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!"

[Romans11:33MKJV].

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Chapter 2

COSMOS OR CHAOS?

1. Defining Cosmos & Chaos.

1.1 Cosmos:

> *"The word is generally used to suggest an orderly or harmonious universe, as it was originally used by Pythagoras in the 6th century B.C."*
>
> [Merriam-Webster].

1.2 Chaos:

> *"A confused mass or mixture ... A state of things in which chance is supreme especially: the confused unorganized state of primordial matter before the creation of distinct forms ... the inherent un predictability in the behavior of a complex natural system ..."*
>
> [Merriam-Webster].

2. **What Christians believe.** Christians believe in *Life-after-Death* and that God (i.e., the 'YHWH' of Moses and Mt. Sinai) created, maintains and manages the Universe (i.e., the 'orderly and harmonious Cosmos'):

> *"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and measured out the heavens with a span? And who has shut up the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? ... I have made the earth and created*

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man on it; I with My hands have stretched out the heavens; and all their host have I commanded."

[Isaiah40:12; 45:12MKJV].

3. **What Atheist-Evolutionists ('Scientific Pantheists') believe.** Atheist-evolutionists (scientific pantheists) 'believe' (!) in Death-after-Death and that the Universe (the 'Chaos', they should say) was created and is managed and maintained by the sheer serendipitous accident and random chance of 'natural forces' without any specific intelligently-designed reason or purpose in mind and without the help of any so-called 'Intelligent Designer' or 'Almighty Creator' (God).

4. **Biogenesis vs. Spontaneous Regeneration.** Christians thus support the idea of *biogenesis* i.e. (perishable) 'BIOS' life driven and upheld by God's pre-existing (imperishable) 'ZOE' Life. Thanks to God's 'ZOE' life, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead within only three days, whereas evolutionists, after millions of years of so-called 'evolution' and centuries of the study of 'Darwinism', can still (at best) only promise us:

(i) Death-after-death.

(ii) a 100% mortality rate for all forms of life for every generation alive on earth and with no better promise forthcoming; and

(iii) a membership card from your nearest atheist association or secular humanist society.

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Chapter 3

THUMBS-UP FOR THE GRAND DESIGNER

1. **The Human Hand.** The 'multi-hinged', 'five-pronged' human hand remains one of the wonders of divine creation. My wife and I have, for instance, been musicians now for well over 40 years and I soon, early in my (amateur) musical 'career', discovered that it was impossible to play a musical scale on the piano without at least seven fingers to each hand; to play an octave, at least eight fingers were needed.

Anatomically the problem is solved by the multi-talented thumb, and to play a scale or octave was to simply slide the thumb forward underneath the fingers and back etc. A medical doctor friend of mine has affirmed that, in the science and art of surgery, the thumb is allotted the value of (the equivalent of) three fingers. Evolutionists would perhaps now be tempted to retort with:

> *"No big deal; primates have a similar anatomy and hands. It is the obvious result of coincidence and natural selection!"*

What utter nonsense: After *'millions of years of so-called progressive evolution' (sic)* I have yet to hear (and see) a chimp play *Mozart's 'Symphony No.25 in G minor K'.* In fact, one scientist has said that, considering their impressive 'tools' (hands like humans etc.) the primates, by and large, are nevertheless still 'remarkably stupid'. There is simply no comparison.

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Besides, when the chimp first took the rock to crack the nut thousands of years ago some may have deemed it technologically advanced and even cute; yet, however, after thousands of years the chimp has not 'evolved' an inch ... he is still using the same rock to crack the same nut with. He has, in other words, not changed at all, and to add further insult to injury, the evolutionists' millions of years of so-called 'progressive Evolution' makes him look even worse than that (hasn't 'evolved' even after 'millions of years' of 'progressive Evolution').

2. **The Human Ear.** The human ear is an anatomical 'innovation' of stupendous proportions. Take e.g., the *'Stapedius',* the smallest skeletal muscle in the human body, just a little more than 1 mm in length.

> *"Its purpose is to stabilize the smallest bone, the 'Stapes', in the body ... it dampens the vibrations of the 'Stapes' by pulling on the neck of that bone. As one of the muscles in the acoustic reflex it prevents excess movement of the 'Stapes' helping to control the amplitude of sound waves from the general external environment to the inner ear ... failure of which would result in normal sounds received as too loud."*
>
> [Wikipedia].

3. **The Ultimate Wonder.** Something that no atheist-evolutionist will ever satisfactorily explain in terms of 'Evolutionary Theory': The phenomenon where, in 1979 and within an hour after my son was born, I would have died for a little person I didn't know from 'Adam' just an hour before; same in 1981 with the birth of my daughter. The real wonder is the unfathomable Creator behind it, and the prophet Isaiah has described Him as follows:

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"Behold, the Lord Jehovah will come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those with young.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and measured out the heavens with a span? And who has shut up the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

Who has directed the Spirit of Jehovah, and what man taught Him counsel?

With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him and taught Him in the path of judgment, and taught Him knowledge, and made known the way of understanding to Him?

Behold, the nations are like a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the scales; behold, He takes up the coastlands as a very little thing.

And Lebanon is not enough to burn, nor the beasts of it enough for a burnt offering.

All nations before Him are as nothing; and to Him they are thought to be less than nothing, and vanity.

To whom then will you compare God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

The workman melts a graven image, and the goldsmith spreads it over with gold, and casts silver chains.

He too poor for that offering chooses a tree that will not rot; he looks for a skillful workman to prepare a graven image that will not totter.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is He who sits on the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in; who brings the rulers to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth as vanity.

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Yes, they shall not be planted; yes, they shall not be sown. Yes, their stump shall not take root in the earth. And He shall also blow on them, and they shall wither, and the tempest shall take them away like stubble.

To whom then will you compare Me, or am I equaled? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high, and behold, who has created these, who brings out their host by number? He calls them all by names by the greatness of His might, for He is strong in power; not one is lacking."

[Isaiah40:10-26MKJV].

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Chapter 4

BIBLICAL CREATIONISM vs. DARWINIAN CREATIONISM

1. **Revisiting Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism.** When reading literature on *Classical Darwinism* one would soon discover that *Classical Darwinism* leans predominantly toward *Atheism* as a worldview (or 'religion') of choice, hence the term *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism* for the remainder of this article.

2. **The Two Major Pillars of Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism.** These are:

2.1 There was (and still is) *no God, Supreme Being or Intelligent Designer* in existence involved with the creation and the managing and maintenance of the Universe.

2.2 The Universe came into existence cosmically, geologically and biologically by the *random accident of (brainless, mindless) 'Darwinian 'Evolution'* without any particular purpose and without the help of a supernatural *Creator/Intelligent Designer.*

3. **Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism.** This worldview, i.e., *Creative Evolution* or *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* attempts to fuse *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism* and the *Genesis Creation Account* into a single worldview that will, intellectually and spiritually, hopefully satisfy

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those people who believe in some kind of 'Evolution' and a 'Creator' of some kind.

4. **Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism.** *Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism* believes that it would be theologically untenable (and absurd) to believe that God (the Creator) would be Omnipotent (Almighty) enough to create a Universe in '13.8 billion years' but not Omnipotent (Almighty) enough to do it in six ordinary days of 24 hours each (about 6000 years ago). What alien brand of 'omnipotence' is that?

Biblical (Young Earth) Creationists are, for instance, willing to (in principle) concede that God could have made the Universe in 13.8 billion years for the simple reason that nothing is impossible with God. They insist, however, say that although it may have been possible, it was, considering *Biblical testimony* and the *Genesis Creation Account,* improbable since it would not have been necessary for an omnipotent God.

The problem is that the *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationists* are not preprepared to make that concession to *Biblical (Young Earth) Creationists by* for instance conceding that God must obviously have been omnipotent enough to have created the Universe in six ordinary weekdays of 24 hours each (even if He hadn't).

5. **The Paradox.** So here we now arrive at a theological-philosophical paradox where:

- The *Biblical (Young Earth) Creationists* ascribe to God *('first class') absolute omnipotence.*

- The *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationists* ascribe to God only *('second class') relative (curtailed by His own physics) omnipotence.*

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- The *Bible* ascribes *Absolute ('first class') Omnipotence to the* God of the Bible.

6. **The Omnipotence Quiz.** Decide on your worldview about the omnipotence of God below by answering the question:

"How Omnipotent (Almighty) Do You Believe God Is Really?"

"In my opinion, the God of the Bible (the YHWH of Moses and Mt. Sinai and the Ten Commandments) is:

- Absolutely Omnipotent!

- Relatively Omnipotent!

- Very Omnipotent!

- Just a little Omnipotent!

- Not Omnipotent at all!"

7. Rationale for ***Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism's*** rejection of ***Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism by referring back to the 'Master Template' of the atheists, i.e., Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism.***

7.1. *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* cannot be possible where *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism, which does not allow a 'God' in its equation,* were found to be CORRECT (VALID) because *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* needs God in its equation to survive as a viable theory.

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7.2 *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* can also not be possible where *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism* were found to be INCORRECT (INVALID) because *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* needs Evolution in its equation to survive as a viable theory.

8. **The problem of the superficial 'Two opposite worldviews' dichotomy.** Just in case of objections ... the superficial *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism* versus *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* 'dichotomy' illustrated in paragraph 7 was first superficially created by the evolutionists (evolution-minded atheists & theists) and not by this author; therefore this author reserves the right to use the superficial dichotomy to point out the error of the *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationists,* another hybrid dichotomy (*Darwinian [Old Earth] Creationism versus Biblical [Young Earth] Creationism)* that wouldn't have happened had *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationists* simply been willing to accept the spiritual integrity of the Bible (and especially the miracles of the Bible and the bona fides and integrity of Jesus Christ) on face value.

The abovementioned two worldviews are opposing, mutually exclusive ways of looking at the origins of things, and how the proponents of these two radically different views can then still come together at symposiums on 'Evolutionary Theory' and pretend they are singing from the same page in the (science) hymnbook boggles the mind ... it is hypocrisy on steroids.

9. **Summary.** As far as the atheist-evolutionists are concerned they must feel free to believe what they like ... it's a free country. There 'religion-of-choice', it would appear, is *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism* and it probably will remain that way until the *Second*

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Coming of Jesus Christ unless they repent and believe the Gospel; for, in the atheist-evolutionist's bizarre world:

- everything 'evolves' except evolutionists themselves ... why do they never 'change'?

- according to them there is no such thing as 'Absolute truth' ... except the absolute truth of atheism.

Be that as it may, it is my submission that *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism:*

- makes a mockery of *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism*, as both these two opposites (mutually exclusive worldviews) i.e., *Classical (Atheistic) Darwinism* and *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* cannot both be right (valid) at the same time.

- makes a mockery of *Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism,* as both these two opposites (mutually exclusive) worldviews, i.e., *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* and *Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism* cannot both be right (valid) at the same time.

- makes a mockery of the Old Testament miracles and Biblical timeline i.r.o. the *Genesis Creation Account* and the testimony of Cultural and Biblical History well-attested by *Biblical Archaeology.*

- makes a mockery of the miracles of Jesus Christ who never needed 'millions of years' to *change water into wine, multiply a few loaves and fishes to feed thousands, learn to walk on water, raise Lazarus (and others) from the dead and rise form the dead Himself.*

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- makes a mockery of the *Genesis Creation Account* that affirmed *Adam* as the *first man* ever (since before Adam there was yet 'no man to till the ground' as well as a mockery of the New Testament that confirms that Adam was the 'first man'.

- makes a mockery of the *Old Testament (outside the Book of Genesis)* that affirms the existence of *Adam and Noah and Noah's Flood.*

- makes a mockery of the *bona fides, testimony and integrity of Jesus Christ* who personally attested to the authenticity and veracity of the *Genesis Creation Account* by affirming the existence of *Adam and Eve; Noah, the Ark of Noah and the Flood of Noah.*

- makes a mockery of the *New Testament Epistles* that affirm the existence of the *first man Adam and the first woman, Eve.*

- makes a mockery of God's assumed omnipotence *by ascribing to Him a kind of omnipotence* that is somehow subservient to His own created *Laws of Physics.*

- makes a mockery of the *doctrine of the New Heaven and New Earth* as described in *Revelation 21.*

P.S. If it had taken *13.8 billion years* to make this present Universe and *4.54 billion years* this present Solar System (and Planet Earth), must we surmise that Christians are going to wait *billions and millions of years* for the *New Heaven and New Earth* (Revelation 21:1) to arrive too, considering the fact that Jesus Christ has started His epic

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work on the new home (John14:1-3) for believers only recently, i.e. about 2000 years ago?

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Chapter *5*

THE PROBLEM WITH DARWINIAN CREATIONISM ('CREATIVE EVOLUTION')

1. **The Obsession with Evolutionism.** Dismayed with so many science devotees' pathological obsession with ''Evolutionism' where they lately have been trying their level best to incorporate *Evolution* into the *Genesis Creation Account* (or the *Genesis Creation Account* into *Darwinism*) come hell or high water, I have finally discarded the term *'Creative (Theistic) Evolution'* for the more fitting one of *'Darwinian Creationism'* i.r.o. those theists totally captured by the typically postmodernist *'Appeasement Theology'* of *'Old Earth Creationism'.*

2. **The futility of human reasoning.** Do the math: It usually takes much longer for a construction company to erect an ultra-modern, state-of-the-art (billion-dollar) six-story mall than to build a little suburban shopping centre comprising only about a dozen small shops, right? (Right!).

So, it stands to reason that, since this Cosmos is so astonishingly large, complex, beautiful and majestic, it must have taken God a long time (e.g., '13.8 billion years') to 'build' (create) the Universe, right? (Wrong!).

The problem with this view is that so many people have been captured by the folly of precast, materialistic human reasoning. Human logic, however, should not be applied to an omnipotent Creator who has created the Cosmos from the 'platform',

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'bridge', 'war-room' or (for lack of a better word) *geochronological* point-of-departure of INFINITY, and not from a platform comprising and dictated by this physical Universe's spatial parameters with its natural laws and rules we know from experience and scientific observations to manifest as e.g. *Universal Gravitation, the Strong and Weak Nuclear Forces, the Periodic Table of the Elements, the Electromagnetic Spectrum, the Universal Constants, Acoustics (the 'Audible Range'), and* not to forget the *'still undetectable by scientific instruments dark matter + dark energy'* (95% of the Cosmos) etc.

The world has clearly been separated into primarily two kinds of people, i.e., those (according to C.S Lewis) who say to God, *"Thy will be done!"* and those to whom God must say, *"Okay then, have it your way!"*

As far as the sciences is concerned, the world has 'transmogrified' even further, i.e., between those who seriously think that Charles Darwin is a more authentic, credible and worthy custodian of history and steward of truth than Jesus Christ and those who don't.

3. Two serious considerations.

3.1 Jesus of Nazareth's multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

The atheists may be able to write this (and other) miracles of Christ off as myths and get away with it because they are atheists, but no Christian can do that and still call himself/herself a Christian ... unless he/she is a 'Christian atheist'.

So, although the *'The Law of Conservation of Mass'* forbids matter in the Universe to be created (added) or destroyed (removed) Jesus nevertheless created (added) 'new matter' practically 'instantly' (well, at least within minutes) in

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violation of this Law *when He multiplied the loaves and the fishes on at least two occasions.*

Why then would a Creator be wielding complete (i.e., absolute and infinite) power over *time, space and matter* bother with a '13.8 billion-years' Creation'? Of course, He could do it because He is God, but why would He have bothered?

Even Jesus Christ has ignored the normal (natural law and physics-driven) time-consuming processes and protocols in making good wine when He changed water into (excellent) wine during the wedding at Cana.

3.2 **The New Heaven and New Earth.** Furthermore, does *Old Earth Creationism (Darwinian Creationism)* mean that the much-anticipated *New Heaven and New Earth* envisaged in the *Book of Revelation* are also going to take *13.8 billion and 4.54 billion years* (respectively) to arrive? The Bible says:

"Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."

[John14:1-3MKJV].

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is. And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away."

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[Revelation21:1-4MKJV].

Considering the fact that Jesus Christ has started His labours on preparing a 'place' for believers only recently (after His ascension to Heaven about 2000 years ago in terms of John14:1-3) and according to the atheist-evolutionists it takes about '13.8 billion years' and '4.8 billion years' to make a Universe and solar system like ours respectively, Christians are in for a wait of another estimated 13.8 billion years for the New Heaven (or 4.8 billion years for a new Earth) to ever materialise. *Darwinian ('Old Earth') Creationism,* it would seem, makes a mockery of the New Testament miracles and the *Book of Revelation* prophetic timelines i.r.o. the New Heaven and New Earth envisaged in the *Book of Revelation.*

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Chapter 6

WHY WAS THERE NOTHING INSTEAD OF SOMETHING?

1. **Questions only the Bible can answer.** Questions no atheist, scientist or even Christian can answer outside of the Bible for instance are:

1.1 Why is there something (i.e., the Cosmos etc.) instead of nothing?
1.2 Where do we come come from?
1.3 Why are we here?
1.4 Where are we going?
1.5 Is there life after death?
1.6 How can I know the difference between right and wrong?
1.7 Is there hope for humankind?

2. **There are more Questions than Answers.** The abovementioned questions can only be answered by the Bible, and for the purpose of this article let me just mention in passing that since the person that dies at the age of 80 will have travelled (on spaceship earth's leisurely orbit around the sun) roughly as far as 75 036 960 000 km in his lifetime (i.e., 1 872 413 times around the earth never minding the earth's breakneck speed on the way to the 'Great Attractor') no wonder then that people ask questions like these ... life is a serious business.

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3. **True Maturity.** The Jewish philosopher, Joshua Liebman, writes:

> *"The more mature we become, the more we realise that what Plato said was true: that we have to become experts in the scale of measurement. We have to weigh a present pain against a future pleasure and a present pleasure against a future pain. To do this well is to become an artist in the values of life."*
>
> [Liebman: 221].

It is said that the wiser the person the longer-term view of life he will have; the question of *"Why is there <u>something</u> (a Universe etc.) instead of <u>nothing</u>?"* (i.e., why is it necessary to exist?) may then, at first sight of the empty tomb of Jesus, be reversed to, *"Why was there <u>nothing</u> instead of <u>something</u>?"* (i.e., why was the tomb empty?).

4. **Becoming artists in the values of Life.** Imagine this scene: Annually millions of tourists visit Israel to see the 'Holy Land', including the *Garden Tomb* purported to be the tomb of Christ, although, for lack of foolproof archaeological evidence I only interpret it as a prototype of the type of tomb where Christ may have been laid after His crucifixion; there is no way we can be 100% sure, and it doesn't really matter either.

The fact is that the tomb is empty and that all those millions of tourists come every year to Jerusalem to visit the *Garden Tomb* just to just stand there and ... stare at absolutely nothing! Why do they do that? The point is that that particular tomb is the closest they will ever come to the *real empty garden tomb* on this earth; it is a kind of spiritual point-of-contact between the temporal and the Eternal and they have become *artists in the values of life* by appreciating what the Bible says:

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> *"But if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him ... For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*
>
> [Romans6:8,23MKJV].

*One Israeli prime minister once quipped, *"There are only two kinds of lands in the Middle-East ... the Holy Land and Oily Lands!"*

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Chapter 7

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

1. **Which God?** The God I am referring to is of course:

> *"... the 'YHWH '(i.e., from the Greek* **τετραγράμματον** *meaning, [consisting of] four letters") i.e., the four-letter Hebrew word* **יהוה***, the name of the biblical God of Israel."*
> [Wikipedia, 'Tetragrammaton'].

2. **All things are possible with God.** Jesus Christ has promised:

> *"But Jesus looked on them and said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*
> [Matthew19:26MKJV].

That indefatigable hero of faith, Job, after he had finally 'repented' said,

> *"... I know that You [GOD] can do all, and not any purpose is withheld from You."*
> [Job42:1b-2MKJV].

In a lighter vein, the late actress, Audrey Hepburn, star of 'My Fair Lady', once reportedly remarked:

> *"Nothing is impossible; even the word itself says, 'I'm possible!'*

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3. **A beautiful testimony.** A friend of mine (a pharmacist) whom I had last seen in 1965 while still at school and with whom I was reunited only after 50 years (during a high school reunion in 2015) regaled us with this beautiful story of God's wonderful providence (my paraphrasing):

> *"I was standing in my pharmacy one morning when the pastor of my church walked in and we began exchanging news and stories about the benevolence and wonder of the LORD. While we were chatting, I noticed from the corner of my eye a man wobbling in on crutches and taking in a position right behind the pastor in the queue for the dispensary, obviously to order some medicines. Unfortunately, the pastor did not notice him come in and with me too afraid to offend the pastor in his conversation, I suddenly saw the man, clearly discomfited, and agitated for waiting, turning round and wobbling out of the pharmacy in anger."*

My friend continued:

> *"I was pretty distraught for having been so discourteous toward a customer, especially a sick one, but great was my surprise when the same sick man walked in the next morning without his crutches and exclaimed, 'I'm healed! You guys' chatting away forever about God has somehow affected me and healed me! Yesterday, after I had stormed out of the pharmacy, by the time I reached the traffic light I could throw my crutches away, and (by the way) I won't be needing the medicine any longer!"*
>
> [Stassen archives].

5. **Far above all that we pray or think!** To illustrate what 'nothing is impossible for God' in God's world could mean, imagine a sub-tropical paradise replete with snow-capped mountains (!); rolling green hills and lush forests of flowering trees; beautiful

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gardens stocked with miles and acres of gorgeous, aromatic flowers; quaint waterfalls and natural fountains everywhere; gentle rapids and streams; crystal clear blue lakes awash with evergreen, manicured lawns of emerald as far as the eye can see; exotic succulents that release streams and showers of colourful soap bubbles in the mild warmth of day and a community of redeemed saints relaxing inside a large, pristine white bandstand praising and worshipping God to the accompaniment of a symphony orchestra conducted by Jubal* himself.

*Jubal: Forefather of all musicians.

> *"And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those playing the harp and the organ."*
>
> [Genesis4:21MKJV].

Wouldn't that it be wonderful? The fact is that the Bible says that God can do even *more than that* ... i.e., He can do *above all that we may care to ask or think!* Here's the deal: Our imaginations are no match for God's true abilities! The Bible says:

> *"Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen."*
>
> [Ephesians3:20-21MKJV].

So, if this true, why could God not have created a Cosmos in six ordinary weekdays of 24 hours each only about 6000 years ago ... is He scientifically 'omnipotent' (Young Earth Creationism) or scientifically 'impotent' (Old Earth Creationism)?

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PART TWO: CHRISTOLOGY

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Chapter 8

CHRIST AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. **Proposition #1.** Jesus Christ is the 'I AM' and lives eternally even before Abraham was born; He possesses authentic 'ZOE' life, and not the derivative, borrowed 'BIOS' life of ordinary, spiritually unregenerated human beings.

> *"Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and He saw and was glad. Then the Jews said to Him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham? Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Before Abraham came into being, I AM!"*
>
> [John8:56-58MKJV].

2. **Proposition #2.** Jesus Christ wants believers to have the same authentic 'ZOE' life (and not only borrowed 'BIOS' life) that He has.

> *"Truly, truly, I say to you, The hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they who hear shall live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has given to the Son to have life within Himself ... The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly ... For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him."*
>
> [John 5:25-26; 10:10; 3:16-17MKJV].

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3. **Proposition #3.** Jesus Christ wants believers to go and be with Him where He is, i.e., in the *Father's House of Many Mansions.*

> *"Father, I desire that those whom You have given Me, that they may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me, for You have loved Me before the foundation of the world ... In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."*
>
> [John17:24; 14:2-3MKJV].

4. **Proposition #4.** Jesus Christ is/was not from 'beneath' or of 'this world', but from ABOVE.

> *"And He said to them, You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world."*
>
> [John8:23MKJV].

5. **Proposition #5.** Jesus Christ warned that people would eventually die in their sins should they refuse to believe and accept that He was/is the 'I AM'.

> *"Therefore I said to you that you shall die in your sins, for if you do not believe that I AM, you shall die in your sins."*
>
> [John8:24].

6. **Proposition #6.** Jesus always only spoke (said, taught) the things His Father (in Heaven) has mandated Him to speak.

> *"Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of*

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man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

[John8:27-29MKJV].

7. **Proposition #7.** God wants all people everywhere (irrespective of race, nation, culture, political affiliation, socio-economic status, gender or current religious persuasion) not to perish but to enjoy Salvation through the Saviour of the world, Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ).

"Even so it is not the will of your Father in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

[Matthew18:14MKJV].

"I tell you, No. But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were sinners above all men who lived in Jerusalem? I tell you, No. But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

[Luke13:3-5MKJV].

"But even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life ... And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes on Him should have everlasting life. And I will raise him up at the last day."

[John3:14-15; 6:40MKJV].

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord ... Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved ... For there is no difference both of Jew and of Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call on Him ... For everyone, "whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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[Romans6:23; 10:9,12,13MKJV].

"And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations ... Truly I say to you, Wherever this gospel shall be proclaimed in all the world, this also that she has done will be spoken of for a memorial of her ... And He said to them, Go into all the world, proclaim the gospel to all the creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."

[Mark13:10; 14:9; 16:15-16MKJV].

8. **Proposition #8.** Jesus Christ pleads with all people everywhere to repent and believe the Gospel so that they may be saved.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him."

[John3:16-17MKJV].

"From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent! For the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

[Matthew4:17MKJV].

"And after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel ... And calling near the crowd with His disciples, He said to them, Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, he shall save it. For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

[Mark1:14-15; 8:34-37MKJV].

9. **Proposition #9.** Jesus Christ is the one and only Name (Rock, Foundation) upon which the Gospel is founded by which

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anyone may be saved. Although the apostles were also incorporated into the foundation of the Church (as well into the foundations of the New Jerusalem together with the twelve patriarchs from the days of Jacob) people everywhere can be saved by the Name of Jesus Christ only.

> *"For any other foundation can no one lay than the one being laid, who is Jesus Christ ... Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Everyone believing on Him shall not be put to shame." For there is no difference both of Jew and of Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call on Him. For everyone, "whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved ...*
>
> *"And He said to them, Go into all the world, proclaim the gospel to all the creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned ...*
>
> *"And it shall be that everyone who shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved ...*
>
> *"And there is salvation in no other One; for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved ...*
>
> *"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, and your household."*
>
> [1Corinthians3:11; Romans10:9-13; Mark16:15-16; Acts2:21; 4:12; 16:31MKJV].

10. **Proposition #10.** The *Message of the Cross* (i.e., the Gospel) will be seen as 'foolish' only by those who will indefinitely reject Jesus Christ as Saviour (and the Gospel) who then may be in danger of perishing beyond hope should they persist with that stance.

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"For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those being lost, but to us being saved, it is the power of God."

[1Corinthians1:18MKJV].

11. **Proposition #11.** Upon Jesus Christ has been conferred all Authority in Heaven and Earth and He commands believers to preach the Gospel, make and baptise disciples from all nations on earth while teaching such the way of Jesus Christ.

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen."

[Matthew28:18-20MKJV].

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Chapter 9

WHERE CHRISTIANS COME FROM

1. **Where Christians come from.** This article is not a formal treatise on the history of Christianity, but a simple explanation of the major socio-ideological forces or trends driving Christianity today.

Bear in mind that the most evangelical Christians probably believe that *doctrinal differentiation* manifesting worldwide as *'denominationalism'* as a predominantly geographical, historical and cultural driven phenomenon that has an instinctive and stubborn proclivity to resist (as some call it) 'Popery' in any form and that has so successfully over the decades avoided massive ecclesiastical dictatorships.

Just about everyone, for instance in the world, for instance, knows who the Pope (in an ecclesiastical dictatorship) is, but how many people will, at any given time, be able to tell who the presidents, federal chairpersons or presiding pastors or leaders of each major (non-Catholic) driven denomination, church or congregation in the world is?

To thus address the topic, i.e., *'where Christians come from',* a distinction must be made between the three major ideological drifts, inclinations, or predispositions at work in Christianity, i.e., the so-called *(i) born-again (Evangelical) Christians, (ii) nominal Christians* and *(iii) Christian atheists.*

These three ideological currents and predispositions have less to do with 'denominations' and more with 'attitudes' driven by a personal 'belief-system' that may, alarmingly, be found to a greater or lesser extent inside just about most of the Christian denominations from the four major mainstream groupings

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of Christianity today, i.e., Catholicism, Protestantism, Pentecostalism and the Charismatic movement at large in the world today.

2. The three major ideological currents (inside 'denominations') analysed.

2.1 **The Christian Atheists ('Christian Atheism').** This enigmatic group comprises people who are attracted to the ethics of the 'Ten Commandments' driven moral law from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and the noble, Gospel driven teachings of Jesus Christ (New Testament) who invariably accept Jesus Christ as 'a great moral teacher' worthy to be emulated in society and in personal and vocational relationships.

The group, however, rejects as myths the *divinity of Christ* (insisting that the 'Jesus of history' is not the 'Christ of the church') and the whole idea of a *Heaven, Eternal Life* and the *miracles of the Bible.*

The futility of this worldview or 'belief-system' is however easily recognized: Who in his right mind with only a sprinkling of an education and self-respect will follow a so-called 'great moral teacher' who (allegedly and by their own admission and insistence) has:

(i) lied about his divine origins.

(ii) has falsely claimed the divine authority and power to forgive sins and grant Everlasting Life; and

(iii) fraudulently beguiled the gullible first-century public with the magician's common street-magic and the

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conjurer's crafty illusions in the name of authentic 'Biblical miracles'?

3. **The Nominal Christians ('Nominal Christendom').** This term refers to those Christians who may have grown up in Christian homes and probably have sung as choir boys or attended Sunday School, but who have anyway later drifted away from Christianity while retaining their names on a Church register for the sentimental advantages of the sacraments and ceremonies of weddings, christenings, baptisms and funeral services (or for the welfare benefits and handouts of the Church).

Those who may have read the book, *'God Has No Grandsons'* by 'Mr. Pentecost' (David du Plessis) and obviously the Bible (first and foremost!) will however know that true Christianity cannot be inherited like a family heirloom but must be experienced first-hand through the *born-again (spiritual regeneration) experience* courtesy of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God ... we are saved by faith in Christ and personal goodness, and an exemplary life and performance on merit founded on tradition won't cut it.

'Nominal Christians' are converted to a religion or denomination; 'born-again (spiritually regenerated) Christians' are converted to Jesus Christ, irrespective of the denomination.

4. **The Born-Again Christians ('Spiritual Regeneration').** Bear in mind that, Biblically-historically, the followers of Jesus Christ were first called 'Christians' in Antioch [Acts11:26] and may comprise individual believers from all walks of life, i.e., rich, poor, educated or illiterate and irrespective of age, colour, race, gender or socio-economic status in society.

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"And finding him, he brought him to Antioch. And it happened to them a whole year they were assembled in the church. And they taught a considerable crowd. And the disciples were first called Christian in Antioch."

[Acts11:26MKJV].

Jesus has warned:

"... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

[John3:3bKJV].

From my experience, born-again Christians will usually be inclined to want to confess, articulate or share their testimony i.e., of a *'catharsis'* or *'Damascus Road'* experience (hence the 'born-again' experience) with all and sundry in one way or another and at every conceivable opportunity. In other words (as the saying goes), there was a time when their mess became their 'message' and their test their 'testimony'.

They will freely want to share their experience of an encounter with the person and work of Jesus Christ in their lives that had so dramatically and irrevocably wrought a total change in their spiritual grasp of the Bible, the teachings of Jesus Christ and the priceless Gospel ('good news'):

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

[Romans6:23KJV].

It is predominantly in this trend, proclivity, or predisposition that the phenomenon of *Evangelical Christianity,* irrespective of 'denomination',' will usually also be found strongly driven by such themes and fields of study and endeavour as *Intelligent Design, Biblical Creationism, Evangelism, Missions, Pastoral*

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Counselling, Gifts of the Spirit, Christian charities, although, admittedly, not necessarily always and everywhere confined and/or limited to these groups.

The study fields of *Intelligent Design, Biblical Creationism & Evangelical Christianity* alone may already, and mystifyingly so, span a whole plethora of denominations, churches, and organisations without necessarily any single membership identity.

For instance, a highly commendable (dynamic) 'Charity' sentiment and work is prevailing in the Catholic Church and among Muslims in Islam ('Gift of the Givers' etc.) and I am sure among many other groupings as well. Even among (non-Christian) Hindus and Buddhists and non-committal (agnostic?) scientists a diverse kind of *Intelligent Design* enthusiasts may for instance be found.

In the final analysis, *Love* and *compassion for friend and enemy alike* as the Christian ideal (albeit easier said than done) is the Universal yardstick for measuring 'civility', hence the Christian drive to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every single person in every nation under the sun. Contrary to what so many believe, Christianity is not exclusive, but inclusive and not meant 'for Christians only'.

It's a strange world we live in 'Master Jack' ... but none as strange and mystifying as the *Christian atheists!*

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Chapter 10

THE PROPHETIC INTEGRITY OF JESUS CHRIST AFFIRMED

1. **Christ warns His disciples.**

> *"And going up to Jerusalem, Jesus took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said to them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man shall be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death. And they shall deliver Him to the nations to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He shall rise again."*
>
> [Matthew20:17-19MKJV].

Prophetic Validation #1: Matthew27:11-66.

2. **The Words of Jesus Christ.** Jesus has prophesied:

> *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away ... And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations."*
>
> [Mark13:31; 13:10MKJV].

Prophetic Validation #2: Today the Bible* is still considered the bestselling publication of all time with the Words of Jesus Christ being disseminated unabatedly all over the globe. A recent BBC report has announced that even a thoroughly 'Buddhist' society like that of China, is expected to be more than 50% Christian by the year 2030. The dogs bark, but this grand old Gospel Caravan just keeps rolling merrily along!

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*'Bible': Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) + New Testament.

3. **Political-cultural ramifications.**

> *"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there shall be earthquakes in different places, and there shall be famines and troubles. These things are the beginnings of sorrows."*
>
> [Mark 13:8MKJV].

Prophetic Validation #3: Wars, rumours of wars, regional (tribal) conflicts & terrorism engulf the earth with earthquakes, disease and natural disasters and famines a regular and common threat.

4. **Religious persecution.**

> *"And you will be hated by all for My name's sake, but he enduring to the end, that one will be kept safe."*
>
> [Mark13:13MKJV].

Prophetic Validation #4: The persecution of Christians continues unabatedly; they are increasingly being harassed, persecuted, excommunicated and their values ridiculed, 'cancelled', assaulted, murdered, beheaded and even buried alive in the persecution hotspots of the world.

5. **The woman with the costly ointment.** After some of the guests had criticized the woman who had dared to anoint the feet of Christ with some costly ointment, Jesus replied:

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> *"Truly I say to you, Wherever this gospel shall be proclaimed in all the world, this also that she has done will be spoken of for a memorial of her."*
>
> [Mark14:3-9MKJV].

Prophetic Validation #5: Today preachers all over often use this event as an object-lesson for Christians; here even am doing it right now, thus affirming and perpetuating the prophecy as I write. The skeptics' objection that Christ's crucifixion and resurrection narrative was 'forged after the fact' is thus proven invalid by all these valuable prophetic validations.

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Chapter 11

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST: HOW CREDIBLE?

1. **Eschatology.** Most students of the theological branch of 'Eschatology' (the study of the 'End Times' prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as taught in the Bible) believe that we are living in the era that may see Jesus Christ return to planet Earth exactly as He had promised two millenniums ago.

To emphasize the remarkable historical developments in the world of recent times, Lee Strobel, in his book, *The Case for Christ,* cites what he refers to as 'the verdict of history' i.r.o. the prophecies of Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ) in respect of those signs that will manifest as precursors to His Second Coming, with critical questions and affirmations as follows:

1.1 "Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? [YES!]

1.2 "Do the biographies of Jesus stand up to scrutiny? [YES!]

1.3 "Were Jesus' biographies reliably reserved for us? [YES!]

1.4 "Is there credible evidence for Jesus outside His biographies? [YES!]

1.5 "Does archaeology confirm Jesus' biographies? [YES!]

1.6 "Is the Jesus of history the same as the Jesus of faith? [YES!]

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1.7 "Was Jesus really convinced that He was the Son of God? [YES!]

1.8 "Was Jesus sane when He claimed to be the Son of God? [YES!]

1.9 "Did Jesus fulfil the attributes of God? [YES!]

1.10 "Did Jesus (and Jesus alone) match the identity of the prophesied Messiah? [YES!]

1.11 "Was the death and resurrection of Jesus a real fact of history? [YES!]

1.12 "Was Jesus' body really absent from His tomb? [YES!]

1.13 "Was Jesus seen alive after His death on the cross? [YES!]

1.14 "Are there any supporting facts that point to the resurrection? [YES!]

1.15 "Has the collection of evidence (about the resurrection) really been thorough?" [YES!].

2. **Was the persona of Jesus Christ forged?** To the charge (by skeptics) that the historical persona of Jesus Christ simply was too good to be true and must have been skilfully forged by some remarkably gifted individual, one theologian so aptly replied: *"Only a Jesus Christ could have forged a Jesus Christ!".*

This irony is actually on par with the irony of proving the *non-existence of God,* i.e., considering what it would take to prove

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the non-existence of God (i.e., technological omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence) we have had to concede that, *"Only God has the moral gravitas, divine stature, power and influence to ever prove the non-existence of God!"*

Be that as it may, during His heyday Jesus Christ must apparently have been pretty exasperated by the lack of faith among even the academic, theological elite of His time. He told Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler among the Jews:

> *"If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"*
>
> [John3:12MKJV].

Today, when we preach the Gospel, we are (to the best of our knowledge) trying to tell the world of earthly things surrounding the birth, life, person, ministry, teachings, sacrifice, resurrection and divine stature of Jesus Christ, but, if they struggle to believe that, how are they ever going to believe the heavenly things about Jesus Christ in the *Book of Revelation* and beyond?

I am convinced that today's academicians, scientists, naturalists and their resident (postmodernist) theologians are so rigid in their antiquated 'scientific method' grooves (a system of scientific research reportedly invented 400 years ago) that, should an angel of superior status ever descend on the White House lawns tomorrow (a la 'The Day the Earth Stood Still') and begin to explain to the president's entourage the true wonders of angelic space travel and of the Cosmos (unhampered by the visual impediments of dark matter, dark energy and the fog of years of Darwinian indoctrination) to beyond what our telescopes can see and scientific instruments can detect, they probably won't believe him and instead have him arrested (after they had stripped him of his unique 'space-age uniform' and the insignia of his rank and had him dispatched to Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp for interrogation and years of 'observation'.

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Chapter 12

THE TRIPLE GUARANTEE OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD

1. **Guarantee #1. God cannot lie.** The Bible says that God cannot lie:

> *"On hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the eternal times ... so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."*
>
> [Titus1:2; Hebrews 6:18MKJV].

2. **Guarantee #2. God the Father affirmed the divine status of Jesus of Nazareth on various occasions.**

> *"And Jesus, when He had been baptized, went up immediately out of the water. And lo, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him. And lo, a voice from Heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' "*
>
> [Matthew 3:16-17MKJV].
>
> *"While he yet spoke, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold a voice out of the cloud which said, 'This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear Him.' "*
>
> [Matthew 17:5MKJV].

3. **Guarantee #3. God swore by Himself.** Because He could swear by no greater Authority but Himself, God, who cannot

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lie, *swore by Himself (double assurance!)* to affirm the appointment of Jesus Christ as the Creator of Heaven and Earth and Heaven's de facto Messiah:

> *"For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself ... For men truly swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. In this way desiring to declare more fully to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, God interposed by an oath ..."*
>
> [Hebrews6:13, 16, 17MKJV].

4. **The Supremacy of God's Son affirmed.** In order to dispel any uncertainty about the merit of my 'theology', the reader is encouraged to read the portions of Scripture below where the supremacy of Jesus Christ is elaborated upon and affirmed by the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

> *"God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son [JESUS] whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He [JESUS] sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*
>
> *"For to which of the angels did He say at any time, 'You are My Son, this day I have begotten You?' And again, 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?' And again, when He brings in the First-born into the world, He says, 'And let all the angels of God worship Him.' And of the angels He says, 'Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.' But to the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved*

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righteousness and hated iniquity, therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows.'

"And, 'You, Lord, have laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the works of Your hands. They shall perish, but You will remain. And they shall all become old as a garment, and as a covering You shall fold them up, and they shall be changed. But You are the same, and Your years shall not fail.' But to which of the angels, did He say at any time, 'Sit on My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool?' Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation?"

[Hebrews1:1-14MKJV].

"Therefore, having left the discourse of the beginning of Christ, let us go on to full growth, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the baptisms, of doctrine, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come, and who have fallen away; it is impossible, I say, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify the Son of God afresh to themselves and put Him to an open shame.

"(For the earth which drinks in the rain that comes often upon it, and brings forth plants fit for those by whom it is dressed, receives blessing from God. But that which bears thorns and briers is rejected and is a curse, whose end is to be burned.) But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you and things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this way. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same eagerness to the full assurance of hope to the end, that you be not slothful, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

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> *"For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself, saying, 'Surely in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you.' And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men truly swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. In this way desiring to declare more fully to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, God interposed by an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil, where the Forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."*
>
> [Hebrews6:1-20MKJV].

Students of Biblical prophecy tell us that, should Jesus of Nazareth ever be indefinitely rejected as the *de facto* Messiah of history, no other 'wannabe messiah' could ever be accepted in His place, as the 'prophetic-historical window' for the Messiah to appear has long since passed and such an imposter will have missed the 'prophetic bus' by a little more than 2000 years.

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Chapter 13

THE ULTIMATE SCIENTIST

1. **Jesus Christ: Creator of the Cosmos and the Laws of Physics.** The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ has made the worlds (the Universe) by speaking the worlds into existence by the words of His mouth; He upholds the world by the word of His power.

> *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and empty. And darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light. And there was light."*
>
> [Genesis1:3MKJV].
>
> *"So says Jehovah God, He who created the heavens and stretched them out, spreading out the earth and its offspring; He who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it ... I have made the earth, and created man on it; I with My hands have stretched out the heavens; and all their host have I commanded."*
>
> [Isaiah42:5; 45:12MKJV].
>
> *"God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."*
>
> [Hebrews1:1-4MKJV].

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Jesus Christ has created (among other things) the following: Time, Space & Matter; Universal Gravitation; the Strong & Weak Nuclear forces; Electromagnetism; the Periodic Table of Elements; Acoustics; the Galaxies, the Solar Systems, humans and the animal and plant kingdoms. The Bible says:

> *"In the beginning was the Word [JESUS CHRIST] and the Word [JESUS CHRIST] was with God, and the Word [JESUS CHRIST] was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him [JESUS CHRIST] and without Him [JESUS CHRIST] not even one thing came into being that has come into being."*
>
> [John1:1-3MKJV].

2. **The Earth is not 'flat', neither does it rest on concrete 'pillars'.** The Bible teaches that the Earth is a *sphere suspended in space*:

> *"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."*
>
> [Job 26:7KJV].

P.S. The poetic reference to the 'pillars of earth' and of 'heaven' (in the Bible) is a clear reference to the fixed *Laws of Gravity* guaranteeing the integrity of the orbit of the Earth around the Sun.

> *"It is he [GOD] that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."*
>
> [Isaiah 40:22 KJV].

The references below are examples of poetic language sometimes used to describe dramatic natural phenomena:

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"He raises up the poor out of the dust; He lifts up the needy from the dunghill to set them among princes; yea, He causes them to inherit a throne of honor; for to Jehovah are the pillars of the earth; and He sets the habitable world on them ...

"He who shakes the earth out of its place, and the pillars of it tremble ...

"The earth and all its people are melting away; I hold up its pillars. Selah."

[1Samuel 2:8; Job9:6; Psalm75:3MKJV].

3. **God once made the Sun and the Moon to 'stand still' for 'about a full day'.** in the 'Valley of Aijalon'.

"Then Joshua spoke to Jehovah in the day when Jehovah delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun! Stand still on Gibeon! And, moon, stand still in the valley of Aijalon! And the sun stood still, and the moon stood still, until the people had avenged themselves on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? And the sun stood still in the midst of the heavens, and did not hasten to go down about a whole day."

[Joshua10:12-13MKJV].

4. **God once made the Earth to reverse its course by 10° (ten degrees).**

"And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz."

[2 Kings20:10-11 KJV].

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Bear in mind that 10° (ten degrees) represent approximately. 1113 kilometres (695 miles) on the rotation-arc (circumference) of the Earth at the Equator which, according to some sources, represent about 40 minutes (4 minutes per degree) on a 12-hour sundial.

5. **The Ultimate Social Scientist.** As alluded to before, God appoints the number of stars and calls them by their names. God also heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

> *"He appoints the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names. Great is our LORD, and of great power; There is no limit to His understanding."*
>
> [Psalm147:4-5MKJV].
>
> *"He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds."*
>
> [Psalm147:3MKJV].

It was as if the Creator was saying: *"If I can create, count and name all the stars in the Cosmos, don't you think I can see, name and heal every broken heart in the Cosmos too?"*

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Chapter 14

THE WORDS OF GOD

1. **The Words of God.** The Bible teaches:

> *"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."*
>
> [Psalm12:6KJV].
>
> *"The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."*
>
> [Psalm119:72KJV].

2. **Modern Jurisprudence.** The Bible as God's Word has come to us over centuries of history, adversity and the purification regimes of suffering and terrible hardship to produce a rich legacy of e.g., Roman-Dutch Law, English-Scots Law, Case Law incorporating Indigenous Law etc. where required to a point where even judges who are sworn atheists will today unflinchingly and uncompromisingly enforce our rich legacy of Judeo Christian values in in Courts of Justice countrywide.

3. **Wisdom from God's Word.** 'Wisdom' speaks:

> *"My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver."*
>
> [Proverbs8:19KJV].

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Which 'wisdom' is it that is being referred to here? The Bible says:

> *"From where then does wisdom come, and where is the place of understanding? And to man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom! And to depart from evil is understanding!"*
>
> [Job28:20,28KJV].

4. **Knowledge.** On the subject of 'knowledge', the Bible says:

> *"The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
>
> [Proverbs1:7KJV].

5. **Atheism, Agnosticism & Secular Humanism.** When I observe the level of banality, vulgarity, profanity and sometimes even blasphemy i.r.o. God, the Bible and Christianity from certain pagan quarters in the media, I cannot help but shudder. The Bible says that God will honour only those who tremble at His Word:

> *"... saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word."*
>
> [Isaiah66:2bKJV].
>
> *"Then those fearing Jehovah spoke together, each man to his neighbor. And Jehovah listened and heard. And a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared Jehovah, and for those esteeming His name. And they shall be Mine, says Jehovah of Hosts, for the day that I will make up My treasure. And I will pity them as a man has pity on his son who serves him. Then you shall again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God, and him who does not serve Him ...*

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"But to you who fear My name, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise, and healing will be on His wings. And you shall go out and frisk like calves of the stall."

[Malachi3:16-18; 4:2MKJV].

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Chapter 15

THEY ARE CRUCIFYING OUR LORD ALL OVER AGAIN!

1. **Postmodernism.** The infiltrated postmodernist element in the Christian Church (e.g., 'Jesus Seminar'; 'Nuwe Hervormers' etc.) is crucifying our LORD Jesus Christ all over again. For instance, do they say that:

1.1 ***"Jesus was only a great teacher, and not the Son of God!"***

False: Great teachers do not lie about and then mislead people about their stature, mission and so-called 'divine powers'. Either Jesus Christ was who He claimed it was, i.e., the *Son of God,* or He was just an ordinary fallible carpenter from Nazareth with all kinds of delusions about His importance.

1.2 ***"The Bible is only a great guide on morality and ethics, and not the inerrant Word of God!"***

False: What kind of idiot would use the Bible as a 'great guide on morality and ethics' when the same Bible according to the same idiot allegedly contains too many 'errors', 'discrepancies' and 'contradictions' to qualify as the Word of God?

1.3 ***"There is no Hell!"***

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False: The same Bible and same Jesus who said there is a 'Heaven' also said there is a 'Hell'! Let's be consistent: Redact 'Hell' from the Bible and the Gospel equation the way some wayward 'denominations' inexplicably have found the brazen courage to do, and you must redact 'Heaven' out of the Bible and Gospel equation too; let's be consistent in our doctrines and Scripture exegesis ... we can't have our cake and eat it.

1.4 *"There is no personal Satan!"*

False: Did Jesus lie when He accused the Pharisees of having the 'Devil', i.e., the 'father-of-lies', as 'father' in *JohnChptr8?* If He indeed did lie about the existence of the Devil, it would make Jesus Himself *(i) an even far greater liar than the Devil himself* and also *(ii) expose Jesus Christ as one who has the Devil as 'father' too.*

"They [the Pharisees] answered and said to Him, Abraham is our father. Jesus answered them, If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth which I have heard beside God; this Abraham did not do. You do the deeds of your father. Then they said to Him, We are not born of fornication; we have one father, even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your father, you would love Me, for I went forth and came from God; for I did not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not know My speech? Because you cannot hear My Word. You are of the Devil as father, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not abide in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me."

[John8:39-45MKJV].

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1.5 ***"Those New Testament miracles were only 'metaphorical' and did not really happen!"***

False: The anecdotal, eyewitness testimonies from the public of the time are overwhelming as evidence for the authenticity of the miracles. Besides, Jesus Christ's *worst enemies* have also testified to the miracles, so what better evidence do we need?

"Then many of the Jews who came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and Pharisees gathered a sanhedrin, and said, What can we do? For this man does many miracles. If we let him alone this way, all will believe on him. And the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

[John11:45-48MKJV].

P.S. Had the 'tricks' Jesus performed been the cheap street magic or illusions of magicians and charlatans then surely the Pharisees would have said so; instead, they, steeped in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) scriptures and well-acquainted with real miracles from the Bible, explicitly stuck to the term, 'miracles' thus affirming Christ's works as authentic.

1.6 ***"Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead! That story of Christ's resurrection was concocted by the disciples to hide their embarrassment!"***

False: What disciple in his right mind with a well-paying 'day-job' would concoct a story that were to later not only cost him his career but also his life as a martyr for his faith, as what probably later has happened to most if not all the disciples?

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More than *500 eyewitnesses* attested to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a figure far above the Jewish minimum-standard of two or three witnesses to affirm testimony as credible.

1.7 *The body of Jesus Christ was stolen during the night by his disciples!*

False: This legend was perpetuated by the soldiers guarding Christ's tomb in order to save their own hides after having been bribed with 'enough silver' by the chief priests to say so. The Bible says:

"And as they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and declared all the things that were done to the chief priests. And being assembled with the elders, and taking counsel, they gave enough silver to the soldiers, saying, Say that His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we slept. And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you free from care. And taking the silver, they did as they were taught. And this saying was spread among the Jews until today."

[Matthew28:11-15MKJV].

Do the math:

- How did the 'sleeping soldiers' (!) guarding the tomb 'see' (!) the disciples roll back the stone from the tomb to steal the body of Christ without waking up?

- Do Roman soldiers sleep with one eye open?

- And, when they 'saw' the disciples engaged in the act of stealing the body of Christ, why did they not apprehend them? Were professional and experienced Roman soldiers afraid of ordinary civilians and disciples of Jesus Christ?

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1.8 *"Repentance is not necessary; living a good, moral and exemplary life is good enough!"*

False: The Bible teaches the demand for REPENTANCE in no uncertain terms:

1.8.1 The Gospel of MATTHEW.

"But go and learn what this is, I will have mercy and not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
[Matthew9:13MKJV].

"Then He began to upbraid the cities in which most of His mighty works were done, because they did not repent."
[Matthew11:20MKJV].

"For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him. But the tax-collectors and the harlots believed him. And when you had seen it, you did not repent afterwards so that you might believe him."
[Matthew21:32MKJV].

1.8.2 The Gospel of MARK.

"... and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel."
[Mark1:15MKJV].

"When Jesus heard, He said to them, They who are strong have no need of a physician, but the ones who have illness. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
[Mark2:17MKJV].

"And they went out and proclaimed that men should repent."
[Mark6:12MKJV].

1.8.3 The Gospel of LUKE.

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"And he came into all the country around Jordan, proclaiming the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins ..."

[Luke3:3MKJV].

"Therefore bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say within yourselves, We have Abraham for our father. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones."

[Luke3:8MKJV].

"I did not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners."

[Luke5:32MKJV].

"I tell you, No. But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

[Luke13:3MKJV].

"I tell you, No. But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

[Luke13:5MKJV].

"I say to you that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

[Luke15:7MKJV].

"And he said, No, father Abraham, but if one should go to them from the dead, they would repent."

[Luke16:30].

"And if he trespasses against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turns again to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him."

[Luke17:4MKJV].

"... and that repentance and remission of sins should be proclaimed in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

[Luke24:47MKJV].

1.8.4 The Book of ACTS.

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"Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

[Acts2:38MKJV].

"Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

[Acts3:19MKJV].

"This One God has exalted to be a Ruler and Savior to His right hand in order to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel."

[Acts5:31MKJV].

"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you."

[Acts8:22MKJV].

"When they heard these things, they were silent and glorified God, saying, Then God has also granted repentance to life to the nations."

[Acts11:18MKJV].

"John having before proclaimed the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel, before His coming."

[Acts13:24MKJV].

"Truly, then, God overlooking the times of ignorance, now He strictly commands all men everywhere to repent."

[Acts17:30MKJV].

"And Paul said, John truly baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe into Him coming after him, that is, into Jesus Christ."

[Acts19:4MKJV].

"... testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

[Acts20:21MKJV].

"But to those first in Damascus, and Jerusalem, and to all the country of Judea, and to the nations, I made known the command to repent and to turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance."

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[Acts 26:20MKJV].

1.8.5 The New Testament Epistles.

"Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, and the forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"

[Romans2:4MKJV].

"Now I rejoice, not that you were grieved, but that you grieved to repentance. For you were grieved according to God, so that you might suffer loss by nothing in us."

[2Corinthians7:9MKJV].

"For the grief according to God works repentance to salvation, not to be regretted, but the grief of the world works out death."

[2Corinthians7:10MKJV].

"... in meekness instructing those who oppose, if perhaps God will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth ..."

[2Timothy2:25MKJV].

"Therefore, having left the discourse of the beginning of Christ, let us go on to full growth, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God ..."

[Hebrews6:1MKJV].

"... and who have fallen away; it is impossible, I say, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify the Son of God afresh to themselves and put Him to an open shame."

[Hebrews6:6MKJV].

"For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected; for he did not find any place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears)."

[Hebrews12:17MKJV].

"The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness, but is long-suffering toward us, not purposing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

[2Peter3:9MKJV].

1.8.6 The Book of Revelation.

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"Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent."

[Revelation2:5MKJV].

"Repent! But if not I will come to you quickly, and will fight with them by the sword of My mouth."

[Revelation2:16MKJV].

"And I gave her time that she might repent of her fornication, and she did not repent."

[Revelation2:21MKJV].

"Behold, I am throwing her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their deeds."

[Revelation2:22MKJV].

"Remember then how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."

[Revelation3:3MKJV].

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; therefore be zealous and repent."

[Revelation3:19MKJV].

"And the rest of the men who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and golden, and silver, and bronze, and stone, and wooden idols (which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk)."

[Revelation9:20MKJV].

"And they did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

[Revelation9:21MKJV].

"And men were burned with great heat. And they blasphemed the name of God, He having authority over these plagues. And they did not repent in order to give Him glory."

[Revelation16:9MKJV].

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"And they blasphemed the God of Heaven because of their pains and their sores. And they did not repent of their deeds." [Revelation16:11MKJV].

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Chapter 16

THREE THINGS THAT WOULD NULLIFY THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST AT CALVARY

1. **'The Gospel for Christians Only'.** This myth among many non-Christians that the Gospel is meant for Christians only is a gross misunderstanding of the purpose, dynamics, and power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The fact is that the Gospel, while forced on none, is offered to all irrespective of race, skin-tone, culture, gender, age, socio-economic status, political affiliation and current religious persuasion. The Bible says:

> *"And He [JESUS] said to them, Go into all the world, proclaim the gospel to all the creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned."*
> [Mark16:15-16MKJV].
> *"Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you."*
> [Matthew28:19-20MKJV].

As for the power of the Gospel to save, the Bible says:

> *"Faithful is the Word and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."*
> [1Timothy1:15MKJV].
> *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*

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[Romans1:16MKJV].

P.S. A *'Gospel for Christians only'* policy is a contradiction in terms and would nullify the work, suffering and sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world at Calvary (Golgotha).

2. **'Justification on the basis of Personal Merit'** No one will ever be *justified* on the basis of 'good works', 'exemplary performance' or 'personal merit' of any kind. If anything, these things may pertain to the just's *eternal reward*, not to *eternal life*. The Bible says:

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ...Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law ... Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
[Romans3:24,28; 5:1MKJV].

P.S. A *'Justification based on Personal Merit' policy* would nullify the work, suffering and sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world at Calvary (Golgotha).

3. **Should Jesus Christ 'Abandon the Church (Ecclesia)'.** Should Jesus Christ today decide to abandon the Church and renege on His promise of *'Justification by Faith in Christ the Saviour'* in the Scriptures would nullify the work, suffering and sacrifice of Christ for the sins of the world at Calvary (Golgotha).

P.S. Jesus Christ's *abandoning of the Church,* an act for all intents and purposes ideologically suggested by the postmodernists or Christian atheists (i.e., 'Jesus Seminar', 'Nuwe Hervormers' etc.), would certainly nullify the work, suffering and sacrifice for the sins of the world at Calvary (Golgotha). The real

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Jesus of history and the Bible and the Christ of the Ecclesia (Church) has, however, solemnly promised:

> *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*
>
> [John14:1-3KJV].

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Chapter 17

WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF JESUS CHRIST?

1. **The Voice of C.S. Lewis.** In his radio-talk, *'What Are We to Make of Jesus Christ?'* from the *BBC's 1940s WW2 series C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)* has said that the person of Jesus Christ usually elicited one of three primary responses from those who encountered Him i.e., either Adoration or Hatred and Terror.

1.1 **Adoration.** Christians and those who read the Bible are acquainted with the passages referring to the angel host singing at the news of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem and of the 'adoration of the Magi', i.e., when the wise men from the East brought the gifts of *gold, incense and myrrh.*

The Bible teaches that God the Father honours those who honour His Son, and special mention is made of the *Crown of Righteousness* reserved for those who had loved the appearance of Christ. Today's Christians honour, adore and follow Jesus Christ because His voice was/is the voice of truth.

"For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My Word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from death to life ... If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also

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My servant shall be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him."

[John5:22-24; 12:26MKJV].

"Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day; and not to me only, but also to all those who love His appearing."

[2Timothy4:8MKJV].

"Truly, truly, I say to you, He who does not enter into the sheepfold by the door, but going up by another way, that one is a thief and a robber. But he who enters in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens to him, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

"And when he puts forth his own sheep, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him. For they know his voice. And they will not follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers. Jesus spoke this parable to them, but they did not understand what it was which He spoke to them.

"Then Jesus said to them again, Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters in by Me, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.

"The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."

[John10:1-11MKJV].

1.2 **Hatred.** Jesus has warned:

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you."

[John15:18KJV].

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Today e.g., atheists, atheist-evolutionists (scientific pantheists) and secular humanists of all kinds probably in general hate Jesus Christ with a vengeance. They may say that either He did not exist or that He does not matter (and that His teaching remains of no consequence) but the constant, monotonous drip of their nauseating, vitriolic invective decries their words and demonstrates a level of hatred for Him burned into their DNA by years of denial, rejection and violent resistance to His kind voice calling them to repentance and inviting them to a peace only He can give.

1.3 **Terror.** When the demon-possessed Gadarene ('Legio') was confronted with Jesus, he was stricken with terror, and today those who hate or fear Christ are often stricken with the same kind of terror to a point where they vehemently will avoid the Bible, the Gospel and discussions about Jesus Christ ... almost as if it wielded *lethal kryptonite.* They have reason to be terrified, however, for Jesus has warned:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes on Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God ...

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

[John3:16-18KJV; Mark8:38MKJV].

"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine as the brightness of

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the sky; and those who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever."

[Daniel 12:2-3MKJV].

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And a place was not found for them. And I saw the dead, the small and the great, stand before God. And books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

[Revelation20:11-12MKJV].

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Chapter 18

WHAT JESUS CHRIST PROBABLY IS DOING TODAY

1. **What is Jesus Christ doing today?** We (admittedly) obviously have no clue what the *Father's House of Many Mansions* (outside of Biblical revelation) entails, whether astro-physically, cosmologically, geopolitically, demographically, technologically or socio-culturally.

Having said that, we can, I believe, deduce from Biblical revelation that Jesus Christ is a very busy person in Heaven 'today'. It was so moving when, whether in a true (authentic) vision or only a glorious dream, my deceased brother was supposed to have said to a dear friend not long after his funeral:

> *"Jesus is the biggest and most beautiful 'angel' in Heaven!"*

Now I won't be at all surprised!

2. **What Jesus Christ probably is doing today.**

2.1 **He is sitting at the right hand of the Father because unto Him has been given all authority with a position and Name above all names.**

> *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I*

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commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen."
[Matthew28:18-20MKJV].

"*God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."*
[Hebrews1:1-4MKJV].

2.2 He has immortality, dwelling in light which cannot be approached, whom no one of men have seen, nor can see, with honour and power everlasting.

"For He in His own time will reveal who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in light which cannot be approached, whom no one of men have seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen."

[1Timothy6:15-16MKJV].

2.3 He is upholding the Cosmos ('all things') by the Word of His power.

"... and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

[Hebrews1:3b-4MKJV].

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2.4 **He is, as the one and only Mediator between God and man, interceding with God on behalf of new converts while empowering believers.**

"For God is one, and there is one Mediator of God and of men, the Man Christ Jesus."

[1Timothy2:5MKJV].

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

[Philippians4:13MKJV].

2.5 **He is serving as believers' 'Defence Advocate' in Heaven (with the Father) should they ever fall into sin.**

"My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

[1John2:1MKJV].

2.6 **He is preparing Heaven and His Father's 'House of Many Mansions' for the mass influx of redeemed saints at the time of the 'Rapture' and/or during the 'Second Coming'.**

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."

[John14:2-3MKJV].

2.7 **He is setting up the nations on earth geopolitically in preparation for the 'End Times'.**

"But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father. But as the days of Noah were, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before

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the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark.

"And they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

"Therefore watch; for you do not know what hour your Lord comes. But know this, that if the steward of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through.

Therefore you also be ready, for in that hour you think not, the Son of Man comes. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord has made ruler over His household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord shall find him doing so when He comes.

"Truly I say to you that He shall make him ruler over all His goods. But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delays His coming, and shall begin to strike his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken, the Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he does not look for Him, and in an hour which he does not know.

"And He shall cut him apart and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

[Matthew24:36-51MKJV].

2.8 He is preparing Heaven for the *Marriage Supper of the Lamb* and celebrations with believers when the "Hallelujahs!" will resound in Heaven like the sound of 'many waters' and 'strong thunders'.

"And I heard as the sound of a great multitude, and as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of strong thunders, saying, Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and we will give glory to Him. For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has prepared herself.

"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. For the fine linen is the righteousness of the

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saints. And he said to me, Write, Blessed are those who have been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true sayings of God."

[Revelation19:6,7,9MKJV].

2.9 **He is preparing the 'Judgement Seat of Christ' as well as 'The Great White Throne Judgment' during which He will preside as 'Chief Justice' over the Judgment of all nations and people.**

"But why do you judge your brother? Or also why do you despise your brother? For all shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

[Romans14:10MKJV].

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And a place was not found for them. And I saw the dead, the small and the great, stand before God. And books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

[Revelation20:11-12MKJV].

2.10 **He is preparing for His Second Coming.**

"But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father. But as the days of Noah were, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark.

"And they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

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"Therefore watch; for you do not know what hour your Lord comes. But know this, that if the steward of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through.

Therefore you also be ready, for in that hour you think not, the Son of Man comes. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord has made ruler over His household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord shall find him doing so when He comes."

[Matthew24:36-46MKJV].

"Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, and those who pierced Him will see Him, and all the kindreds of the earth will wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

[Revelation1:7-8MKJV].

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Chapter 19

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

1. **Introduction.** Who is Jesus Christ? Well, the atheist would probably say a *'mythical figure from Jewish folklore'* and the agnostic that, *'we'll probably never know for sure'.* The theological postmodernist ('Christian atheist') would probably say, *'a religious fanatic and moral teacher that lived in the first century and was arrested and executed by the Roman authorities on Jewish Sanhedrin charges as a public nuisance and a seditious rabble rouser'* and the Jehovah Witness, *'a Jewish prophet and maybe even a god, but not God'.*

The irony is that all of these 'learned friends' will (and have to do so by both convention and compulsion) acknowledge Jesus Christ as the most influential, important and culture-changing figure who had ever lived each time they write the date (for instance, today's date, *'17 August 2021')* on their document, be it an exam paper, invoice, receipt, letter, e-mail, social media post, blogpost, summons, cash slip etc.

Now some nations for instance do not necessarily follow the Gregorian calendar (B.C. or A.D.) like we do and have their own 'calendar' ... but how influential are those calendars in today's world of international big business and multinational corporations? When last did you see any of those calendars on a document passing your way? For instance, Vox reported in 2016 that:

> *"Saudi Arabia just switched over this month from the Islamic calendar, since the elimination of 11 days would help save money on civil servant pay for the budget-crunched kingdom."*

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1.1 **God the Son.** He is *God the Son* in the *Holy Trinity* of *Father, Son & Holy Spirit,* the *Anointed One.*
[Hebrews1:1-2; Matthew3:13-17].

1.2 **The Blessed and only Potentate.** He is the blessed and only *Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,* who alone has immortality, dwelling in light which cannot be approached, whom no one of men have seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting.
[1Timothy6:15b-16a].

1.3 **At the Right Hand of God the Father.** He sits at the *Right Hand* (i.e., the most powerful 2nd-in-Charge in the Universe) of God the Father.
[Romans8:34; Colossians3:1;
Hebrews1:3,13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2].

1.4 **Projects & Maintenance Engineer.** He is the *'Projects & Maintenance Engineer'* through whom God has created the worlds and upholds everything by the power of Christ's word.
[Hebrews1:1-2].

1.5 **The Alpha & Omega.** He is co-existent with God the Father and the Holy Spirit without beginning or end, the *Alpha & Omega.*
[John8:58; 17:5,24; Hebrews7:5;
Revelation1:8; 21:6; 22:13].

1.6 **Everlasting, Eternal.** He is the same yesterday, today and forever; before Abraham was, He 'IS' (exists).
[John8:58; 13:8].

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1.7 **The Paschal Lamb of Golgotha.** He was the Father's sinless and perfect (without blemish) *Paschal Lamb* to die for the sins of the world at Golgotha.

[John3:16; Romans6:23; Hebrews10:5-10; 1Peter1:20].

1.8 **The Rock upon whom the Church is founded.** He, not Peter, is the One & Only Foundation (Rock) upon which the Church (Ecclesia) is founded.

[1Corinthians3:11; Romans9:32-33].

P.S. Jesus = PETRA ('a massive rock'); Peter = PETROS ('a piece of rock').

1.9 **Melchizedek.** He is our High Priest forever after the *Order of Melchizedek.*

[Hebrews3:1; 4:14: 5:5-10; 6:20; 8:1; 10:21].

1.10 **Opener of the Holiest of Holies for all sinners to enter.** He has made it possible for believers to enter the *Holiest of Holies* of the *Mercy Seat* by His Blood (Sacrifice) at Golgotha.

[Hebrews9:1-25; 10:19].

His Blood cleanses those who repent from sin and believe the Gospel

[1John1:7].

1.11 **Children of God.** To those who accept Him as Saviour He gives the power to become *children of God* irrespective of race, age, skin tone, nation, culture, socio-economic status, political affiliation, or current religious persuasion provided such will accept and confess Jesus Christ as Saviour and LORD.

[John1:12].

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1.12 **The Father's House of Many Mansions.** He has gone to prepare a place in the *Father's House of Many Mansions* for the children of God.

[John14:1-2].

1.13 **Second Coming.** He is *coming back for His Church* (the 'Ecclesia') again.

[Revelation1:7].

1.14 **The Great White Throne Judgment.** At the *Great White Throne Judgment* God the Father will not judge anyone but has given all judgment over to Jesus Christ who will then preside as Chief Justice to judge the nations of the world.

[Romans14:10; 2Corinthians5:10; John5:22,27].

1.15 **Confession.** Those who confess Jesus Christ, the one and only Mediator between God and men, as LORD will be saved.

[Romans10:9,10,13; 1John5:13; 4:12,15; Hebrews13:15].

2. **Ashamed or Not Ashamed?** Those who are *not ashamed* to confess the Name of Jesus Christ will yet stand *unashamed* before the Father and the angels at the Second Coming.

"Therefore whoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man shall also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels ...

"For whoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My Words, the Son of Man shall be ashamed of him when He shall come in His own and in His Father's glory, and that of the holy angels."

[Mark8:38; Luke9:26MKJV].

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"I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be clothed, and so that the shame of your nakedness does not appear. And anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see."

[Revelation3:18MKJV].

3. **The Dogs Bark!** While the atheists, skeptics and agnostics are still dangerously vacillating about the *bona fides* ('if any') of Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Saviour of the world; and while the postmodernists are trying to write Jesus Christ off as a first-century religious fanatic and deluded Jewish leader who didn't rise from the dead and who wasn't really the Son of God, I will as long as I live do my level best to show who this humble 'Carpenter' Rabbi from Nazareth really was (and still is).

3.1 **The Wonder of the Cosmos.** Try to fathom this (I still can't):

3.1.1 *One million* of our *Earths* will fit into our Sun.

3.1.2 *9.3 billion* of our Suns will fit into the largest star thus far discovered, i.e., *VY Canis Majoris*.

3.1.3 About *7.5477 x 10^{0}* of our Earths will fit into the star *VY Canis Majoris*.

3.1.4 The largest galaxy thus far discovered (1 billion light-years away) is the *Galaxy IC 1101*. This galaxy has an estimated diameter of *6 million light-years* with a mass of about *100 trillion stars*.

3.1.5 At *100 000 light-years diameter*, our *Milky Way Galaxy* will fit into *Galaxy IC 1101* *at* least *60 times*.

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3.2 **King David and the Cosmos.** King David has said:

"When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have established; what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man, that You visit him?"
[Psalm8:3-4MKJV].

3.3 The Jesus Christ we Worship.

3.3.1 Jesus Christ is the express image of *God the Father* (Respectfully: 'A Chip off the Old Block').

" ... who being the shining splendor of His [GOD THE FATHER] glory, and the express image of His [GOD THE FATHER] essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high ... "
[Hebrews1:3MKJV].

3.3.2 **Projects & Maintenance Engineer.** God the Father has created the world through Jesus Christ as His *de facto Projects &n Maintenance Engineer.*

"God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds ... "
[Hebrews1:1-2MKJV].

3.3.3 On the Right Hand of the Father.

"... who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high ...

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[Hebrews1:3MKJV].

3.3.4. A more excellent name than the angels.

"... being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."
[Hebrews1:4MKJV].

3.3.5 All *Power (Authority) in Heaven & Earth.*

"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority is given to Me in Heaven and in earth. Therefore go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things, whatever I commanded you. And, behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen."
[Matthew28:18MKJV].

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Chapter 20

WHO REALLY KILLED JESUS CHRIST?

1. **Who really killed Jesus Christ?** Disputes over who really killed Jesus Christ now and then arise, and 'Who dunnit?' theories abound. For instance:

1.1 **Suspects #1: The Bulls of Bashan.** This derogatory term refers to the riffraff from Jerusalem and surrounds, i.e., the type of roughnecks that are always around where there is a good street-brawl, e.g., the agitators, instigators, anarchists, hooligans, hoodlums and informal fascists of society who were not necessarily part of the religious or devout establishment. From the messianic *Psalm22:*

"Many bulls have circled around Me; strong bulls of Bashan have surrounded Me."

[Psalm 22:12MKJV].

1.2 **Suspect #2: The Roman Empire.** After all was it the Roman Governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate who issued the decree for Jesus to be crucified, notwithstanding his wife's solemn warning against having anything to do with the innocent 'carpenter' preacher from Nazareth.

"But as he was sitting down on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, Have nothing to do with that just man, for today because of Him I have suffered many things in a dream. But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

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"The governor answered and said to them, Which of the two do you desire that I release to you? They said, Barabbas. Pilate said to them, What then shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ? They all said to him, Let Him be crucified.

"And the governor said, Why? What evil has He done? But they cried out the more, saying, let Him be crucified! But when Pilate saw that it gained nothing, but rather that a tumult was made, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person. You see to it."

[Matthew27:19-24MKJV].

1.3 **Suspects #3: The Roman Soldiers.** The fact that the Roman soldiers were only carrying out their orders in ignorance apparently did not absolve them of guilt because Jesus specifically prayed to His Father in Heaven for *them* (and them only and no others as some erroneously believe) to be forgiven.

"And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. And parting His clothing, they [THE SOLDIERS] cast lots."

[Luke23:34MKJV].

1.4 **Suspects #4: Judas Iscarioth & The Sanhedrin (Jewish Religious Council).** Technically speaking, the fact of Judas Iscarioth conniving within the Sanhedrin to kill Jesus was irrefutable.

"Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ...And as He was yet speaking, behold, Judas came, one of the Twelve. And with him came a great crowd with swords and clubs, being sent from the chief priests and elders of the people. And he who betrayed Him gave them a sign, saying, Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one, lay hold on Him. And coming up to Jesus immediately, he said, Hail, Master! And he kissed Him. And Jesus

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said to him, Friend, why are you here? Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him ... And they who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had assembled ... Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, now you have heard his blasphemy ... And it becoming early morning, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor ... And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing ... But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus."

[Matthew26:14,47-50, 57, 65; 27:1-2, 12, 20MKJV].

1.5 **Suspects #5: The Jewish Community.** That the Jewish community at large (the same crowds that shouted "Hosanna" just days before) crucified and killed Jesus became evident on the *Day of Pentecost,* when Peter stood up and said:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God made this same Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. And hearing this, they were stabbed in the heart, and said to Peter and to the other apostles, Men, brothers, what shall we do?"

[Acts2:36-37].

"And you killed the Prince of Life, whom God has raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses."

[Acts3:15MKJV].

1.6 **Suspects #6: All of us (the whole world).** Someone has said that the only contributions Christians have ever made to God's *Plan of Salvation* was their sin that had made it necessary in the first place (!). So, in effect we are all, as fallible and sinful human beings, complicit in the killing of Jesus Christ.

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2. **Conclusion.** So, who should be held (legally) liable for the prosecution, crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ? The answer is ... NOBODY. Two reasons ought to suffice:

2.1 **Jesus has laid down His life voluntarily.** He said:

"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I might take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down from Myself. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it again."

[John10:17,18aMKJV].

Bear in mind that Jesus could have called more than *twelve legions of angels* to rescue Him.

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"*

[Matthew26:53KJV].

Jesus also could have called His followers ('servants') to fight for Him.

*A 'legion' of angels comprises *6000 angels;* more than twelve legions would have involved more than *72 000 angels.*

'Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would fight so that I might not be delivered to the Jews. But now My kingdom is not from here."

[John18:36MKJV].

2.2 **Jesus has died for the sins of the world.** It stands to reason that, after Jesus had died for the sins of the world, anyone that may have been complicit in His death would afterwards anyway have been exonerated the way the three thousand

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were exonerated (upon their repentance) on the *Day of Pentecost.*

"And hearing this, they were stabbed in the heart, and said to Peter and to the other apostles, Men, brothers, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call."

[Acts2:37-39MKJV].

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Chapter 21

WHY DID JESUS CHRIST DO SO MANY MIRACLES?

1. **Introduction.** Why did Jesus Christ do so many miracles? The number of miracles ('wonder-works') Jesus Christ must have performed during His short tenure as Messiah must have been prodigious with most of them probably never published; the Apostle John writes:

> *"This is the disciple who testifies of these things and wrote these things. And we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many things, whatever Jesus did, which, if they should be written singly, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."*
>
> [John21:24-25MKJV].

So, why did Jesus do so many miracles? Some notes:

1.1. **Jesus is the Son of God.** Jesus was/is deity and deity (a real God) does miracles ... period. Obviously, He would have made His entrance on this here sad planet doing miracles to establish His authority and get peoples' attention.

> *"And after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel."*
>
> [Mark1:14-15MKJV].

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1.2 **Jesus had compassion for the people of the world.** God is LOVE, so obviously the *agape love* of the Master would have begun to manifest the minute He stepped out in ministry.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him."
[John3:16-17MKJV].

1.3 **Jesus has come to heal the broken-hearted and set captives free.**

"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And, as His custom was, He went in to the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read.
And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And unrolling the book, He found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is on Me; because of this He has anointed Me to proclaim the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim deliverance to the captives, and new sight to the blind, to set at liberty those having been crushed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' "
"And rolling up the book, returning it to the attendant, He sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your ears.' "
[Luke4:16-21MKJV].

1.4 **Jesus has come to give to the poor 'Beauty for ashes', the 'Oil of Joy for mourning' and the 'Garment of Praise for a spirit of heaviness'.**

"... to appoint to those who mourn in Zion, to give to them <u>beauty for ashes</u>, the <u>oil of joy for mourning</u>, the <u>mantle of praise for the</u>

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spirit of heaviness; so that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Jehovah, that He might be glorified."
[Isaiah61:3MKJV].

1.5 **To prove His authenticity (bona fides) as the prophesied Messiah.** Jesus probably needed to convince the religious authorities and citizens of His day of His authenticity as a true miracle-worker and God in the flesh, as opposed to a common street illusionist or circus magician, as borne out by the articulated concerns of His enemies the Pharisees.

"Then the chief priests and Pharisees gathered a sanhedrin, and said, What can we do? For this man does many miracles. If we let him alone this way, all will believe on him. And the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."
[John11:47-48MKJV].

P.S. The authenticity of the miracles was e.g., demonstrated by the fact that, when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, He took the precaution of sending the 'wailers' and 'mourners' from the room, probably to clear the air of the spirit of unbelief and morbidity. A common exhibitionist of a charlatan (with ulterior motives) probably would have welcomed an audience, and the larger the better.

"And behold, a man named Jairus came, and he was a synagogue-ruler. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him that He would come into his house. For he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay dying. But as He went, the people thronged Him.

"And a woman who had a flow of blood twelve years (who had spent all her living on physicians, and could not be healed by any) came behind Him and touched the border of His garment. And instantly her flow of blood was staunched.

"And Jesus said, Who touched Me? And all having denied, Peter and those with Him said, Master, the crowd presses and jostles

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You, and You say, Who touched Me? And Jesus said, Someone has touched Me, for I know that power has gone out of Me.

"And seeing that she was not hidden, the woman came trembling. And falling down before Him, she declared to Him before all the people why she had touched Him, and how she was instantly healed. And He said to her, Daughter, be comforted. Your faith has saved you; go in peace.

"He was still speaking when someone came from the synagogue-ruler, saying to him, Your daughter is dead, do not trouble the Teacher. But when Jesus heard, He answered Him, saying, Do not fear, only believe and she shall be healed.

"And coming into the house, He allowed no one to go in, except Peter and James and John, and the father and the mother of the girl. And all were weeping and bewailing her. But He said, Do not weep; she has not died, but sleeps.

"And they ridiculed, knowing that she was dead. And He put them all out. And He took her by the hand and called, saying, Little girl, arise!

"And her spirit came again, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that food be given her to eat. And her parents were astonished. But He charged them to tell no one the thing that happened."

[Luke8:41-55MKJV].

2. No 'exhibition performances'. Because Jesus of Nazareth was not a cheap exhibitionist or fraud, He usually avoided doing miracles on special request. When Herod tried to 'solicit' Him into performing His 'magic', Jesus not only declined but never answered Herod as much as one single word. Jesus nevertheless did many great things:

"And there are also many things, whatever Jesus did, which, if they should be written singly, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."

[John21:25MKJV].

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3. **The great 'Rationale' behind the miracles.** At the end of World War 2 General Eisenhower came to Auschwitz-Birkenau to observe Nazi atrocities first-hand, i.e. the death camps, gassing facilities ('showers') and cremation ovens; he reportedly told army photographers to photograph and film as much of the evidence (dead corpses and emaciated survivors) as possible because he knew that memories were notoriously short and that the world would soon (too soon!) forget and possibly even deny that the holocaust had ever happened (as is being done by some today).

The primary reasons Jesus Christ had done so many miracles was to:

(i) establish His divinity as the Son of God, Son of Man and Son of David.

(ii) affirm His mandate as the anticipated Messiah of the Jews and Saviour of the world; and

(iii) establish (beyond a reasonable doubt) His rightful Authority to forgive sins!

The Bible says:

> *"But so that you may KNOW that the SON of Man has AUTHORITY on earth to FORGIVE SINS, then He said to the paralytic, Arise, take up your bed and go to your house."*
>
> [Matthew9:6MKJV].

P.S. Let's be brutally honest: I'd rather be forgiven of all my sins and fallibility as a sinful human being first than worry over getting healed in the body, since man can go to Heaven with a broken body, but not with unforgiven sin and an unregenerated spirit.

4. **The Ultimate Shock.** Bear in mind that the epithet, 'Son of Man', was not only meant to illustrate the fact that Jesus Christ was, over and above being 'deity', also 'fully human' but to also emphasize His stature as God's de facto Emissary from

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Heaven and the right to Everlasting Dominion. The prophet Daniel writes:

> *"I saw in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And dominion and glory was given Him, and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages, should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."*
>
> [Daniel 7:13-14MKJV].

Now, during His ministry on earth Jesus Christ was reviled by His enemies, rejected, and illegally prosecuted by the Pharisees and Scribes (they did not follow due process), ridiculed by Herod, mocked by the Roman soldiers, brutally scourged and crucified by the religious authorities with the help of the occupying army, betrayed by a friend, denounced by a dear disciple, abandoned by most of the other disciples and left for dead by just about all.

Even His garden tomb had to be borrowed from an honourable Jewish counsellor (Joseph of Arimathea) otherwise His body probably would have been dumped on some waste-disposal site ('Gehenna'*) to be burned.

Interestingly the women in his life have proved faithful to the end, i.e., Mary (His mother), Mary (an aunt) and Mary Magdalene (a follower).

> * *"**Gehenna**, also called **Gehinnom**, abode of the damned in the afterlife in Jewish and Christian eschatology (the doctrine of last things). Named in the New Testament in Greek form (from the Hebrew Ge Hinnom, meaning "valley of Hinnom"), Gehenna originally was a valley west and south of Jerusalem where children were burned as sacrifices to the Ammonite god Moloch. This practice was carried out by the Israelites during the reigns of King*

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Solomon in the 10th century BC and King Manasseh in the 7th century BC and continued until the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century BC. Gehenna later was made a garbage centre to discourage a reintroduction of such sacrifices."

[www.britannica.com/topic/Gehenna].

Even today the Name of Jesus Christ is blasphemed and profaned by the world and those who hate Him. Imagine then the shock when all those who had reviled Him and today still blaspheme His Holy Name will discover that Jesus Christ is going to be the Presiding Chief Justice at the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of days:

"For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My Word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, The hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they who hear shall live ...

"For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has given to the Son to have life within Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

[John5:22-27MKJV].

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Chapter 22

WHY THE AUTHORITIES WERE AFRAID OF JESUS CHRIST

1. **Introduction.** The question often comes up: Why were the authorities in the days of Jesus Christ so pathologically afraid of Him? Some notes:

1.1. **Threat #1. The ability to change water into wine.** Imagine the military potential vested in a *rebel leader* capable of changing water into wine (or even making citizens believe that it would be possible, whether actually possible or not) for an army (free-of-charge!) hellbent on subjugating the foreign army of Roman legionnaires at all costs.

1.2 **Threat #2. The ability to multiply loaves and fishes.** Imagine a *coup leader* capable of feeding thousands of rebel soldiers by multiplying loaves and fishes at will out of scraps of proviant from a single basket (or making citizens believe he could do that whether really possible or not).

1.3 **Threat #3. The ability to heal the sick.** Imagine a *coup leader* capable of healing sick or wounded soldiers; and, in addition, healing disabled and chronically sick civilians and co-opting them into his army (or making citizens believe he could do that whether possible or not).

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1.4 **Threat #4. The ability to raise deceased soldiers from the dead.** Imagine a *coup leader* capable of restoring dead soldiers (killed in battle) on the battlefield back to life and to full service in their regiments quickly (or making citizens believe he could do that whether possible or not). This could render such an army practically invincible, or to believe itself invincible (or making citizens believe he could do that whether possible or not).

1.5 **Threat #5. The ability to walk on water.** An army capable of imitating the trick of walking on water would have been able to cross many seas, lakes and rivers at will with the greatest of ease (or making citizens believe he could arrange that whether possible or not).

1.6 **Threat #6. The leader's amazing oratorical powers.** People said about Jesus, *"He spake like no man!"* Such a charismatic, persuasive leader probably would not have had any trouble finding eager conscripts for his army.

1.7 **Threat #7. The ability to rise from the dead.** Imagine the ability of a *coup leader* to, when killed, immediately rise from the dead 'on his own steam' (or making citizens believe he could do that whether possible or not).

2. **Jesus Christ was no pacifist.** The fact of history is that the authorities crucified Jesus Christ for the simple reason that they actually believed that He was capable of the powers I have just enumerated exactly as described, otherwise they would probably would not have bothered, and the charge of blasphemy (i.e., putting Himself on level with God) probably was the last straw

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that finally broke the camel's back of the public tolerance of His controversial ministry.

The religious leaders' fear that Jesus might have provoked the Roman authorities to retaliation with punitive measures was, however, totally unfounded. Jesus has said:

> *"My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."*
>
> [John18:36KJV].

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Chapter 23

WISE MEN STILL SEEK JESUS CHRIST

1. **Wise men still seek Him.** After al l have been said and done, and after all the dust had settled the words of Jesus Christ will begin to echo and again ring loud and clear with a divine clarion call unmatched by anything else ever heard on earth and in history ... Jesus Christ has promised:

> *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*
>
> [Matthew24:35KJV].

2. **Where true wisdom comes from.** Why, in the Gospel narrative about the birth of Jesus Christ, were the wise men called the 'wise men'; what constitutes wisdom and where does *wisdom* come from? The answer is clear:

> *"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding ... The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
>
> [Job28:28; Proverbs1:7KJV].

3. **What the Bible teaches about those who do NOT fear the LORD.** The Bible warns:

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"Fools despise wisdom and instruction ... It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom ... The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise ... A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident ... Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it? ... He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered ... The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

[Proverbs1:7b; 12:15; 14:16; 17:16; 28:26; Psalm53:1aKJV].

4. **Gifts of the Wise Men.** The Bible says:

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; GOLD, and FRANKINCENSE, and MYRRH."

[Matthew2:11KJV].

"As to the significance of the three gifts, it is said: The three gifts had a spiritual meaning: GOLD as a symbol of kingship on earth, FRANKINCENSE (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and MYRRH (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death. This dates back to Origen in Contra Celsum: 'gold, as to a king; myrrh, as to one who was mortal; and incense, as to a God' ... Sometimes this is described more generally as gold symbolizing virtue, frankincense symbolizing prayer, and myrrh symbolizing suffering."

[Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_Magi].

5. **The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ.** The Prophet Isaiah prophesies centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ:

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"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; o proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."

[Isaiah61:1-3KJV].

6. **The Heavenly Gifts of God to Mankind.** Centuries after this prophecy by Isaiah, Jesus of Nazareth went to the synagogue one sabbath as was His habit; the Bible says:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

[Luke4:18KJV].

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

[Isaiah1:18KJV].

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

[Romans6:23KJV].

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

[Revelation22:12-13KJV].

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PART THREE: EVANGELISM

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Chapter 24

HOW TO SAY NO TO COMMUNISM

1. **Mass Killings Under Communism.** Wikipedia provides the following statistics:

1.1 **Rummel:** One hundred-and-Ten (110) million 'people, foreign & domestic, killed by communist democide' from 1900-1987.

[Rummel, RJ (1994) *'Death by Government'].*

1.2 **Haliday:** One hundred-And-Forty-Eight (148) million (38 million famine deaths) 'by communist democide between 1900-1999'.

[Chang, Jung Halliday, Jon *'The Great Chinese Famine'].*

1.3 **Courtois:** One hundred (100) million, 'rough approximation' ('between 85-100 million').

[Courtois, Stephen (1999) *'Black Book of Communism'].*

1.4 **Valentino:** (Twenty-One - Seventy (21-70) million 'non-combatants in People's Republic of China & Cambodia'.

[Benjamin Valentino, 2005].

1.5 **Rosefiledde:** Sixty (60) million, 'perhaps tens of millions more'.

[Rosefilede, Steven (2010) *'Red Holocaust'].*

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1.6 **White:** Seventy (70) million 'from execution, labor camps, famine, ethnic cleansing and desperate flight in leaky boats', not counting those killed in wars.

[Matthew White, 2011].

1.7 **Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation:** 'Overall range from 42 870 000 to 161 990 000 with 100 million the most commonly cited figure'.

[Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, 2016].

1.9 **Kotkin:** 'At least 65 million between 1917 and 2017'. [Prof. Kotkin, *'The Wall Street Journal'*, 2017].

[Wikipedia, *'Mass Killings Under Communism'.* Online 2020].

2. **Say NO to Communism.** It is easy to say "No!" to communism: We say "No!" to communism when we say "Yes!" to the GOSPEL and to JESUS CHRIST. Bear in mind that Communism is *atheistic* by design, and thus wholly incompatible with the Bible and the Gospel:

"Throughout the history of the Soviet Union (1917–1991), there were periods when Soviet authorities brutally suppressed and persecuted various forms of Christianity to different extents depending on State interests.[1] Soviet Marxist-Leninist policy consistently advocated the control, suppression, and ultimately, the elimination of religious beliefs, and it actively encouraged the propagation of Marxist-Leninist atheism in the Soviet Union ... The Communist Party destroyed churches, synagogues,[5] and mosques, ridiculed, harassed, incarcerated and executed religious leaders, flooded the schools and media with anti-religious teachings, and it introduced a belief system called "scientific atheism," with its own rituals, promises and proselytizers."

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[Wikipedia, *'Persecution of Christians in the Soviet Union'.* Online 2020].

The Bible says:

> *"Then those fearing Jehovah spoke together, each man to his neighbor. And Jehovah listened and heard. And a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared Jehovah, and for those esteeming His name."*
>
> [Malachi3:16KJV].

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2. Wikipedia, *'Persecution of Christians in the Soviet Union'.* Online 2021.

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Chapter 25

NO DEMILITARISED ZONE IN THE WAR OF IDEAS

1. **The Challenge that defines Christianity.** Jesus Christ has said:

> *"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth."*
>
> [Luke11:23KJV].

2. **Concerning those who are ashamed of Jesus Christ.** Jesus Christ has said:

> *"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels ... That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father ... He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him ... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me ... He that hateth me hateth my Father also."*
>
> [Luke9:26; John5:23; 14:6b; 15:23KJV].

3. **Concerning those who believe in Religious Syncretism ('Interfaithism').** The Bible teaches:

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"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [THAN THE NAME OF JESUS] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

[Acts4:12KJV].

4. **The Gift of Eternal Life through Jesus Christ only.** The Bible teaches:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

[Romans6:23KJV].

5. **Jesus Christ the only Mediator between God and men.** The Bible teaches:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

[1Timothy2:5KJV].

6. **Jesus (not Peter) the Spiritual Rock of the Church (Ecclesia).**

" ... And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

[1Corinthians10:4KJV].

7. **Jesus (not Peter) the Chief Cornerstone of the Church [Ecclesia].** The Apostle Peter himself affirms:

"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he

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is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner."
[1Peter2:6,7KJV].

8. **Concerning those who believe in God but not in Jesus Christ.** Jesus has said:

"Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me."
[John14:1KJV].

9. **Jesus Christ was no pacifist.** Jesus Christ has said:

" ... My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."
[John18:36bKJV].

10. **The Christian's Weapons.** The Bible teaches:

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."
[2Corinthians10:4KJV].

11. **The Christian's real Enemy.** The Bible teaches:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."
[Ephesians6:12KJV].

12. **The Christian's Battledress ['Armour').** The Bible teaches:

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"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

[Ephesians6:13-20KJV].

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Chapter 26

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING

1. **Come as you Are!** How many times have I not heard objections (to the invitation of Christ) such as, *"I am not presentable enough!"; "My life is a mess!"* or *"I gotta get my life sorted out and myself prepared and ready first!"*

All this while we are admonished to come as we are; after two millenniums the still small voice of Jesus Christ supported by the encouraging admonitions of the Holy Spirit are still calling people all over the world to come to Christ for forgiveness, reconciliation and Salvation ... simply come as you are!

If you don't believe me, then explain to me how it has happened that, according to researchers (as mentioned on an earlier BBC news programme), the population of China is expected to be more than 50% Christian by the year 2030. Read the Bible and the Gospels of the New Testament, especially the Gospel of John; the inference is clear:

Come to Christ today just as you are ... do not waste precious time in trying to first 'improve' yourself, 'turning over a new page' or making yourself 'more presentable' to God first; we will never be 'presentable enough' without the Blood, Sacrifice and Righteousness of Jesus Christ anyway.

2. **The Story of the Film-Producer and the Drunk.** The anecdote is told (recalled by Craig Brian Larson in his book '750 Engaging Illustrations') of the film-producer who was looking for a truly authentic, derelict old hobo of drunk for a certain realistic

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part in his new documentary or movie. He reportedly eventually found one, and after a short negotiation, a satisfactory (very casual) deal was struck with the man who was barely surviving in abject poverty.

The drunk was then told to report to the movie-set the following week at such-and-such a time. When the time arrived for the drunk to pitch, in walked a fragrant, clean-shaven, and immaculate dude dressed in a smart suit and with his hair styled and groomed like a pro ... it was the drunk who wanted to 'look his very best' for the promised part ... after all, at last he was breaking into movies!

The producer, it is told, however had no choice but to dismiss him and chase him off the lot with a few bucks for his futile efforts ... the 'respectable new drunk' was not what he had envisaged for the part; he wanted the real deal.

3. **Jesus Christ wants the 'real deal'.** Come today ... tomorrow may be too late. Likewise, we must come to Christ just as we are ... the new (more respectable, but probably phoney) 'drunk' is not what He demands. Do you, like me, perhaps also feel that you are (or were) an incorrigible 'jerk'?

Remind yourself of these words:

'Because I am not presentable enough for Christ today, I come to Christ today for Him to, through His Blood, make me presentable enough for Him; when I was not worth dying for, Christ came down to die for me ... to make me worth dying for!'

Make this song, written by Charlotte Elliott in 1835, your prayer:

"Just as I am without one plea
But that Thy Blood, was shed for me
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee

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O Lamb of God I come ...
I come!

Just as I am and waiting not
To cleanse my soul from one dark blot
To Thee whose Blood can cleanse each spot
O lamb of God I come ...
I come!"

4. **What the Bible Teaches.** The Bible says:

> *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*
>
> [Isaiah1:18KJV].
>
> *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*
>
> [1Peter1:18-19KJV].
>
> *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
>
> [1John1:7KJV].
>
> *"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."*
>
> [Revelation22:17KJV].

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Chapter 27

THE DOGS BARK BUT THIS GREAT GOSPEL CARAVAN JUST KEEPS ROLLING ALONG!

1. **Christianity: An Overview.** Wikipedia writes that, although according to the *Pew Research*, 40 million people are expected to convert to Christianity and 106 million to leave Christianity for the period 2010-2050, approximately 2.7 million people convert to Christianity annually from another religion, with Christianity ranking first in net gains through religious conversion. Other statistics:

1.1 Approximately 1.9 million people converted to Christianity from another religion between 1990-2000 and while 15.5 million convert to Christianity annually from another religion, approximately 11.7 million leave Christianity annually resulting in a net gain of 3.8 million.
[Oxford Handbook of Religious Conversion].

1.2 Significantly more people have converted from Islam to Christianity in the 21st century than at any other point in Islamic history.

1.3 Reports estimate that a significant number of Muslims converts to Christianity can be found in *Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,*

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Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, Kosovo, The United and Central Asia etc.

1.4 Conversion to Christianity has significantly increased among *Korean, Chinese and Japanese in the United States*. In 2012, the percentage of Christians in these communities were 71%, 30% and 37% respectively.

1.5 Due to conversion, the number of *Chinese Christians* has increased significantly; from 4 million before 1949 to 67 million in 2010.

1.6 Due to conversion, Christianity has grown in *South Korea* from 2.0% in 1945 to 29.3% in 2010.

1.7 According to 2012 study 17% of *Jews in Russia* identify themselves as Christians.

2. **The China Campaign.** According to a recent BBC report, while there were only 1 million Christians in China in 1900, more than 50% of China's population are expected to be Christian by the year 2030. Jesus Christ has said:

> *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all nations. And then the end shall come."*
> [Matthew24:14MKJV].

3. **'Religious conversion'.** The reader should take cognizance of the fact that there is a huge difference between *(i) a formal conversion to Christianity for expediency's sake* (e.g. for political, geographical and religious reasons in order to acquiesce to some system for the benefits or protection that Christianity offers) and (*ii) conversion to Christianity as a result*

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of some serious, life-changing (cathartic) 'Damascus Road' experience called 'spiritual regeneration' or 'born-again' event. Without this experience even Christians who had converted to Christianity for expediency's sake may not see the Kingdom of God. Jesus speaks to Nicodemus:

> *"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
>
> *"Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*
>
> *"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."*
>
> [John3:1-8KJV].
>
> *"But as many as received him [JESUS CHRIST] to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his [JESUS] name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*
>
> [John1:12-13KJV].

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Chapter 28

YANKEE STADIUM AND THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

1. **Major League Baseball (MLB).** Let's suppose that, in a hypothetical game between the *New York Yankees* (alias the 'Bronx Bombers' or 'Yanks') and winners of the *World Series* a record 27 times, and the *Chicago Cubs* (the 2016 winners) four amateur, Church-bulletin sports reporters, i.e., *Matt, Mike, Liam and Jack* (from separate congregations and separate suburbs) were despatched to the stadium to cover the game. Some notes:

1.1 Jack was booked in on the *Grandstand Level* facing the field.

1.2 Matt, Mike & Liam were placed *haphazardly* all over the stadium, some even in the *bleacher seats* beyond the outfield fences.

1.3 Mike's brief was to submit his report to the sports-committee *within 24 hours* upon arrival home.

1.4 Liam and Matt's briefs were to submit their reports *within 2 weeks* after the game.

1.5 Jack's brief was to take his time but submit his report *within 3 months* after the game.

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From historical records it would appear as if the reporters (especially the trio of *Matt, Mike & Liam)* probably have, after the game, exchanged notes between them, perhaps over lunch at a sports bar on the premises.

2. **Debriefing.** No doubt it must have been a prolific, historical game, as for the sports fans were, for years afterwards, still mulling and speculating over the game in respect of the four bulletin-reports later published, since so many 'conflicting facts' have reportedly later surfaced in the reports about what exactly had transpired on the field on that momentous day.

Be that as it may, it so happened that, despite the so-called 'discrepancies' and apparent 'contradictions' in the four reports, there was an undeniable consensus about one important matter, and that was that the game had, historically, taken place and that the event was an indelible fact of history impossible to ever erase from record and/or memory.

3. **The Foursquare Gospel.** It stands to reason those four sports reporters seated in different locations and vantage points all over the stadium having had to submit their respective reports at different dates over time after the event were going to, i.r.o. the details of the event, differ in their versions of the event which nevertheless did not (and could not) erase from history the fact of the event.

Similarly, the so-called 'discrepancies' and 'contradictions' in the four Gospels of *Matthew, Mark, Luke* (the three 'Synoptic Gospels') and John serve to affirm (and not diminish) the veracity of the *New Testament Gospel record.* Had all the Gospels been identical in every conceivable respect like four 'Siamese twins' texts, then the critics would have had a field day shouting *"Collusion!"**

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**Collusion:* 'Secret agreement or cooperation especially for an illegal or deceitful purpose'

[Merriam-Webster].

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PART FOUR: ESCHATOLOGY

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Chapter 29

THE DAY THE WICKED CURSED THE FAITHFUL

1. **The Wicked, the Ungodly & the Faithful.** Bear in mind that all people are sinners, but not all sinners are necessarily wicked and/or ungodly; there is a clear distinction between *(i) sinners saved by Grace by faith in Christ* (referred to by the Apostle Paul as 'the saints') and those *(ii) sinners who insist on profaning the Name of the YHWH (Jehovah) of Moses & Mt. Sinai, trampling the Blood of Christ underfoot and thus outraging the Holy Spirit of Grace.* The Bible says:

> *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God ..."*
> [Romans3:23KJV].
>
> *"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"*
> [Hebrews10:28-29KJV].

2. **What happens when the wicked & ungodly curse the faithful?** Some examples:

2.1 **Goliath.** David became famous after he had slain the giant Goliath cursing the Israelites by his pagan gods [1Samuel17:4-58]. David slew the giant with his slingshot and

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severed his head with Goliath's own giant sword; all his vitriolic rhetoric spiced up with pagan curses (aimed at the Israelites) have returned to fall on his own hairy dome. His head was so big the Israelites didn't like him at all ... and, apparently, neither did his own pagan gods. His head was so big (literally & figuratively) that David simply couldn't miss.

2.1.1 **Goliath curses David.** *"And when the Philistine [GOLIATH] looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods."*

[1Samuel 17:42-43KJV].

2.1.2 **The consequences.** *"And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.*

"So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled."

[1Samuel 17:48-51KJV].

2.2 **Nabal.** During David's formative years, i.e. after he had killed Goliath and was in exile fleeing from the wrath of King Saul, he once stopped by at the farm of a livestock farmer by the name of 'Nabal' who was shearing his sheep.

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When the men from David's party, however, asked him for some rations for those in David's'care (reminding him of how they used to protect his sheep from rogue gangs in the mountains) Nabal, a vain and profane man, dismissed them with contempt. Only the speedy & sensible reaction of his wife, Abigail, later saved the farm and its workers.

Ten days later, Nabal's heart within him became a stone and the Lord smote and returned his wickedness upon his own head, that he died. [1Samuel25:1-39]. The Bible says:

2.2.1 **Nabal curses David.**

"And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master. Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be? So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings."

[1Samuel 25:10-12KJV].

2.2.2 **The consequences.**

"And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light. But it came to pass in the morning, when the wine was gone out of Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became as a stone. And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died."

[1Samuel 25:36-38KJV].

2.3 **Simei.** When Simei, an underling of King Saul during the days of David's exile, used to curse and insult David

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vociferously; David did not retaliate. After David had died, however, and after Solomon had put Simei under house arrest and same had broken the curfew with contempt, he was summarily executed.

[1Kings2:40-46].

2.3.1 **Simei curses David.** *"And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: The LORD hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man."*

[2Samuel16:5-8KJV].

2.3.2 **The consequences.** *"And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath. And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again. And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him,*

"Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, The word that I have heard is good.

"Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with? The king said moreover to Shimei, Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head; And king Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD for ever.

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"So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon."

[1Kings2:40-46KJV].

2.4 **Judas Iscarioth.** After Judas had betrayed Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ) he went back to the Sanhedrin, threw the thirty silver pieces of dirty money into the faces of the conniving members and then left to go and hang himself. It would appear, however, as if the rope (or the branch to which it was tied) had snapped causing him to fall to his death.

2.4.1 **Judas curses Christ.**

"And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?"

[Luke22:47-48KJV].

2.4.2 **The consequences.**

"And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself ... "Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

[Matthew27:5; Acts1:16-18KJV].

3. **Sharing the fate with the ungodly.** As reasonable people Christians support the principle of human rights and the human

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right to free speech and freedom of religion. Bear in mind, however, that free speech can sometimes be taken too far, and those atheists, skeptics and agnostics who insist on blaspheming God and trampling the Blood (Sacrifice) of Jesus Christ underfoot with all kinds of ungodly rhetoric and cynical diatribes spiced with profanity and vulgarity, are, for all practical intents and purposes ideologically joining the company of ungodly and wicked as mentioned above.

Just like David (who never in his lifetime retaliated against Simei) Jesus Christ does not necessarily 'retaliate' today ... on the contrary He wants all people (including the wicked and ungodly) to be saved. There will come a day, however, when one's cup of iniquity had finally been filled to the brim and the consequences for such ingratitude and infamy will be rewarded with consequences befitting such lack of appreciation ('pitiless indifference'?) for the pain and suffering the humble Carpenter-rabbi from Nazareth and Son of God, the kindest man who had ever walked the dusty streets of Old Jerusalem, had suffered for the sins of the world. Jesus Christ has warned:

> *"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*
>
> [Mark8:38KJV].

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Chapter 30

DREAM OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

1. **Dreaming of the Second Coming.** This dream of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ was told to me by a young friend whom I will only describe as MarcoB. I have a hunch that it is prophetic and relevant for Christians today. Having said that, I need to remind those who read it not to try and read any *Pre-trib, Mid-trib, Post-trib* or even *No-trib Rapture* doctrines into it ... accept it as 'neutral' toward those contentious topics and only for what it is worth as an inspirational dream.

2. **The Dream.** MarcoB. speaks:

> *"I cannot explain in detail for in dreams things can sometimes be very convoluted; I only know that I was on some 'farm' with the sky dark with ominous clouds when an amazing bright light broke through the clouds, accompanied by an indescribably loud and unfamiliar noise.*
>
> *"Suddenly thousands of people were milling all around me and I immediately. instinctively, realised that it was the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Comparatively few people in my circle beamed with joy; most of them looked perplexed and were enquiring from those few who were laughing with joy for an explanation.*
>
> *"The joyful people were, however, powerless and could do nothing to help those who were perplexed; some members*

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of the public began to assault each other in the crowd, while others attempted to 'run away'.

"I experienced the sensation that I was present everywhere at the same time and could observe what most of the people were doing; I also had the strange awareness that time on the earth (for humankind) has been suspended indefinitely; there was only this inexplicable time wise sensation of an 'Eternal Now', and no 'Past' or 'Future'. Then the dreamed ended and I awoke ... how I wish I could explain the dream more vividly. "

3. **What the Bible teaches.** Jesus Christ describes His Second Coming as follows:

"And then the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the heavens. And then all the tribes of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory ...

'Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, and those who pierced Him will see Him, and all the kindreds of the earth will wail because of Him. Even so, Amen."

[Matthew24:30; Revelation1:7aMKJV].

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Chapter 31

GLOBAL WARNING!

1. **Pollution & Lockdown.** With the environmentalists red-hot on the track of violators of the injunction to people, companies and institutions not to pollute the earth and for polluters to clean up their act, the focus has somewhat been drawn away to matters more critical as the Covid-19 pandemic has now so aptly demonstrated. Overnight the entire planet has gone into lockdown with the world of commerce strapped in behind bars.

2. **The future of Planet Earth.** If global warming is an imminent threat and the Coronavirus a lethal adversary on the prowl, most people would probably be shocked to hear what still awaits the citizens of Terra on the little blue planet on the edge of the Milky Way and wedged in between the planets Venus and Mars. The Bible says:

> *"The earth is breaking, breaking! The earth is crashing, crashing! The earth is tottering, tottering! Like a drunkard the earth is staggering, staggering! And it rocks to and fro like a tree-hut! And its sins heavy on it; and it shall fall and not rise again."*
>
> [Isaiah24:19-20MKJV].

3. **The Future of the Universe.** As if that is not enough, the Apostle John saw the future of the Universe unfold as follows:

> *"And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs when she is shaken by a mighty wind. And the*

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heaven departed like a scroll when it is rolled together. And every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, the great men, and the rich, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains. "And they said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him sitting on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of His wrath has come, and who will be able to stand?"

[Revelation 6:13-17MKJV].

4. **The Blessed Hope.** But, in Jesus Christ (the 'Lamb') there is hope:

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me ...

"Watch therefore, praying in every season that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things which shall occur, and to stand before the Son of Man [JESUS]."

[John14:6; Luke21:36MKJV].

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that having denied ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live discreetly, righteously and godly, in this present world, looking for the blessed hope, and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify to Himself a special people, zealous of good works."

[Titus2:11-14MKJV].

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Chapter 32

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

1. **Age of the Cosmos.** The Bible teaches that there's a *New Heaven* and a *New Earth coming.* Now, according to current Darwinian teaching, the Universe is approximately *13.8 billion years* and planet Earth *4.54 billion* years old.

It would thus be interesting to learn how 'Darwinian Creationists' in their opinion, foresee the development of the future in terms of the two expectations of:

(i) a Universe that (allegedly) is *13.8 billion years* old.

(ii) an Earth that (allegedly) is *4.54 billion years* old.

(iii) the advent of the *New Heaven* and *New Earth* as prophesied by the beloved disciple of Jesus, the Apostle John two millenniums ago

[Revelation 21:1; John14:1-3].

2. **Decay rates of the Elements.** The decay rates of the elements (or the distances of stars in light-years) are not necessarily a valid and reliable indication of the true age of a 'physical Cosmos' miraculously *created from the 'metaphysical' (spiritual) vantage point of God's Throne.*

Humans have no idea whatsoever how God must have created the solid, material Cosmos out of nothing in the beginning. Unless we are let into the 'methods', it will probably remain a

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'state secret' forever or until such a time God chooses to reveal it to us. The Bible says:

> *"The secret things belong to Jehovah our God, but the revealed things belong to us and to our sons forever, so that we may do all the words of this Law."*
>
> [Deuteronomy29:29MKJV].

3. **An Embryonic Universe?** Bear in mind that Evangelical Christians believe that, according to the *Genesis Creation Account*, God clearly created a *mature* (not 'embryonic') Universe and the first *mature* (not embryonic) *kinds of living organisms ('prototypes')* when He first created e.g., animals and humans. I find it difficult to accept that the first two chickens on earth (the 'Adam and Eve' of chickens) were two chicken eggs; how does an egg hatch itself?

Now understandably God could have commanded the two eggs to hatch 'themselves' (because God is omnipotent) but then, in such a scenario, we are back to the evolutionist's 'no-no' principle of 'Creation'. Be that as it may, even todays' evolution scientists nevertheless acknowledge the fact that most animals (wildebeest calves; lion cubs etc.) need to be nursed to adulthood and maturity for a considerable time by their parents when they are young; how did such cubs and calves then raise themselves to adulthood in an ancient world so new, dangerous and frightening?

Besides, lion cubs and wildebeest calves are not hatched from eggs. It thus stands to reason that, if God was intelligent, resourceful and powerful enough to invent a chicken egg, or invent such things as new-born lion cubs and wildebeest calves, then He should be intelligent, resourceful and powerful enough to make mature prototypes of those species as well and spare all the species the risks, dangers and trouble of having to grow up

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without adult fathers, mothers or caregivers. It all depends on how 'omnipotent' we believe our God really is.

Furthermore, if even the *Intelligent Designing* God in the beginning could not make an adult prototype of a wildebeest but had to resort to creating helpless little embryos that had to fend for themselves, how do evolutionists propose that brainless, dumb and clueless 'Evolution' managed to do it?

One would expect those so enamoured with 'science' to stick to following the science and not conveniently revert to 'creationism' when debating issues of creation, such as e.g., chicken eggs that hatched themselves, or cubs and calves that raised themselves in the beginning through 'millions of years of evolution'. Are evolutionists saying that simply waiting for 'millions of years' can make dumb and clueless living organisms *more intelligent,* or *raise a person's intelligence quotient (I.Q.)?*

4. **The Critical Question.** Be that as it may, whenever I am today confronted with the question:

> *"If your God really created this Cosmos in only six ordinary weekdays of 24 hours each about 6000 years ago, then why does it look so old as if Evolution 'evolved' it over billions of years by random accident?"*

I simply reciprocate with:

> *"If your random, accidental 'Evolution' really 'evolved' this Cosmos by accident out of nothing (with nothing) billions of years ago (over billions of years) then why does it look so young and intelligently designed as if Jesus Christ miraculously created it in six ordinary weekdays of 24 hours each only about 6000 years ago?"*

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How can any scientist, no matter how wise, gifted, experienced, intelligent or learned, know what an 'ancient Universe' is even *supposed* to look like without an old and ancient Universe (i.e., prototype old Cosmos) to compare it with? For all we know the current Universe look exactly the way a young Universe would be expected to look like after having been divinely, miraculously created like Adam on the sixth day of Creation.

5. **The Million Rouble Question.** 'Darwinian Creationism' begs the question: Are the (grander) New Heaven and (grander) New Earth also going to take 'billions of years' and 'millions of years' (respectively) to 'evolve' before the Christians will ever have the privilege of seeing and enjoying it? So, either the evolutionists are lying, or the Christians are in for a very long wait.

6. **The verdict of the Bible.** Jesus has said:

> *"Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."*
>
> [John14:1-3MKJV].

According to the evolutionists and Darwinian creationists the Universe and the earth 'evolved' over '13.8 billion years' and '4.54 billion years' respectively. Since Jesus Christ has promised that He'd be going to create a new home for His followers, and He has left planet earth only recently (about 2000 years ago) when will the *New Heaven and New Earth* have the time to 'evolve' into existence and maturity over 'billions of years'?

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Let's face it, the Biblical timeline (from the Gospels and especially from the Books of Daniel and Revelation) does not allow for the extravagance of Universes and solar systems evolving over 'billions of years' into existence and to maturity, but rather speak of a Creator God miraculously creating such wonders whenever and wherever He wants and needs to without the time constraints of so-called 'physics' and 'natural laws'.

After all, Jesus Christ did not wait for 'millions of years' to multiply 2 fishes and 5 loaves into enough proviant for thousands to eat (and still leave 12 baskets of leftovers).

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Chapter 33

ARMAGEDDON:
A CLASH OF CIVILISATIONS

1. **Proposition #1.** A clash between those who fear GOD *(i.e., the YHWH or Jehovah of Moses & Mt. Sinai)* and those who don't.

2. **Proposition #2.** A clash between those who honour and cherish the Bible *(Hebrew Bible/Old & New Testaments)* as the inerrant Word of God and those who don't.

P.S. *The Bible does not aim to 'prove' the existence of GOD; the Bible simply (i) assumes and (ii) reveals the fact of the existence of GOD.*

3. **Proposition #3.** A clash between those who respect and cherish the moral aspects of the *Law of Moses* and *Commandments of GOD* as the only credible & enduring *Moral Compass* adopted and internalised by just about every civilised justice system of note in the world.

P.S. *The injunction to e.g., honour one's parents is as valid today as it was millenniums ago in the days of Moses.*

4. **Proposition #4.** A clash between those who loved the appearance of Jesus Christ *(the Son of God, Son of David & Son of Man)* on the world stage and those who don't.

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5. **Proposition #5.** A clash between those who honour and cherish the *Gospel of Jesus Christ* and those who don't.

6. **Proposition #6.** A clash between those who accept Jesus Christ as *Saviour of the World* and the much-anticipated *Messiah of the Children of Israel* and those who don't.

7. **Proposition #7.** A clash between those who cherish, pursue and espouse the Judeo-*Christian values of the Bible* and those who don't.

8. **Proposition #8.** A clash between those who reject the *atheistic, anti-GOD, anti-Bible, anti-Gospel, anti-Christ, pagan and secular humanist values of the Leftists* trying to ingratiate itself into the minds of moderate Liberal and moderate Conservative (vacillating) blocks, and those who don't.

9. **Proposition #9.** A clash between those who believe in *LIFE-after-Death* in the *Father's House of Many Mansions* and those who instead believe in *DEATH-after-Death* (atheists, pagans etc.), i.e., between those who believe that God 'IS' (exists) and those who don't.

10. **Proposition #10.** A clash between those who expect the *Second Coming of Jesus Christ* and those who don't.

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Chapter 34

BEHOLD HE COMES ... RIDING ON A CLOUD!

1. **Middle East Woes.** As much as we condemn the violence and regret the loss of life on both sides of the conflict, we are faced with the stark reality of a conflict between Israelis and Palestinians (and their ideological sponsors, the anti-Israel Arab bloc) that is probably going to simmer indefinitely.

Be that as it may, most Evangelical Christians today would probably insist that this conflict is part of many inevitable eschatological precursors to the *Second Coming of Jesus Christ.*

2. **Daniel prophesied the coming Reign of Jesus Christ.**

> *"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."*
>
> [Daniel 7:13-14KJV].

3. **Jesus Christ prophesied His Second Coming.**

> *"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be ... Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be*

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darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

[Matthew24:27, 29-30KJV].

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

[John14:2-3KJV].

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

[Revelation1:8KJV].

4. **The beloved disciple John prophesied the Second Coming.**

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

[Revelation1:7KJV].

"And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

[Revelation19:14-16KJV].

5. **The prospects of the Wicked & Ungodly.** Many today, such as the 'Jesus Seminar' (USA) and 'Nuwe Hervormers' (RSA) are ashamed of Jesus Christ and in their foolish pride dismiss Him

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as a first-century religious fanatic arrested and tried for being a public nuisance. Jesus Christ has, however, warned:

> *"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels."*
>
> [Luke9:26KJV].

6. **The Messiah.** Any student of the Eschatology (the study of the end times) and the messianic prophecies of the Bible will soon discover that any person today purporting to replace Jesus of Nazareth as the 'messiah' would be 'barking up the wrong tree,' so to speak.

A focused study of Biblical prophecy will reveal that Jesus of Nazareth has arrived when He arrived at exactly that moment or window in history where all the Old Testament prophecies pertaining to the coming of the Messiah and New Testament events surrounding the birth and life of Jesus of Nazareth were in perfect 'prophetic conjunction', so much so that anyone who today aiming to present himself as the long-expected messiah would, for all practical purposes, have missed the prophetic bus by 2000 years, a bus that will not be coming around ever again.

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Chapter 35

CAPITALISM vs. SOCIALISM

1. **Socialism.** The problem with socialism is its historical legacy of inefficiency and the production constraints (resulting in chronic shortages and long queues in shops) driven by a dysfunctional, centralised command-control economic system of government ... just check out problems culminating from such systems in the old USSR, Eastern Europe, East Berlin prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall, Venezuela etc.

The nuclear fall-out of this system is the phenomenon where people, especially those comrade bureaucrats in government, are all jostling for position in the state machinery from where they somehow can concoct the best deal for themselves within the narrow ambit of the paltry pickings available, either in cash or benefits of some kind.

As socialism is not necessarily a system conducive to spectacular wealth production, *too many people are chasing too few resources, opportunities, advantages and benefits available*, which in turn creates exploitation and corruption on a grand scale in a state where unemployment, economic destitution, poverty and privation run rife.

2. **Capitalism.** The problem with capitalism is that, for the very reason that it is a wealth-producing economic system par excellence, in such a system there usually is a lot of money and wealth to go around and, as *socialist countries do not have a monopoly on sin, crime and corrupt people* (i.e., 'wealth' does not guarantee 'saintliness') the criminal and corrupt element in

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capitalist systems will rear its foul head (in the same way it does in socialist countries) to *take advantage of the system in which benefits and proceeds from collusion, bribery, crony deployment, fraud & corruption* are inordinately lucrative and more rewarding than anywhere else, and far more lucrative than under the most 'successful' *(sic)* of socialist regimes. They steal so much because there's a lot to steal, and they look so well because they (unlawfully) eat so well.

3. **God's Economic system-of-choice.** The Biblical record shows that God's economic system-of-choice for mankind in the current dispensation is a *free market system capitalism)* where all those *Judeo-Christian values* such as *industriousness,* hard work, *diligence in business, private property ownership** (everyman to his own 'fig tree' and 'thou shalt not covet another man's house, wife or ox' etc.) can prevail freely.

*See the 'Ten Commandments': (i) Exodus Chptr20 or (ii) Deuteronomy Chptr5.

4. **There's a New World Coming.** I think it was Winston Churchill who has said that *capitalism is the unequal distribution of wealth* while *socialism is the equal distribution of misery* ... history has shown this to be true.

Sadly, however, since we live in a broken Universe and a fallen society and, although the capitalist, free market system is the better option by far to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, jobs and economic prosperity, neither of these two systems are currently ideal.

When Jesus Christ returns, He is going to rule the nations in perfect justice of a different kind i.e., with a *'sharp sword'* and a '*rod of iron'.* The Apostle John writes:

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"And I saw Heaven opened. And behold, a white horse! And He sitting on him was called Faithful and True. And in righteousness He judges and makes war. And His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head many crowns.

And He had a name written, one that no one knew except Himself.

And He had been clothed in a garment dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

And the armies in Heaven followed Him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, so that with it He should strike the nations.

And He will shepherd them with a rod of iron.

And He treads the winepress of the wine of the anger and of the wrath of Almighty God.

And He has on His garment, and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

[Revelation 19:11-15MKJV].

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Chapter 36

CHRISTIANS: THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

1. **The Pre-Creation Void.** It would be futile for science to speculate about this 'pre-Big Bang era' *(sic)* as only the Creator is privy to this kind of information; the Bible teaches that no man can find out the works God makes from 'BEGINNING to END' outside of Biblical revelation:

> *"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."*
>
> [Ecclesiastes3:11KJV].

1.1 **Time, Space & Matter.** As alluded to before, God first created time, space & matter as chronicled in the Hebrew Bible ('Old Testament'):

> *"In the beginning [TIME] God created the heavens [SPACE] and the earth [MATTER]."*
>
> [Genesis1:1MKJV].

1.2 **Jesus Christ the Projects Engineer.** Jesus Christ was the 'Projects Engineer' tasked with creating the Universe and who is still upholding it by the word of His power.

> *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken*

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unto us by his Son [JESUS], whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

[Hebrews1:1-3KJV].

1.3 **Jesus Christ the Author or Prince of Life.** Jesus Christ is Heaven's de facto *Author of Life/Prince of Life* who has (original) self-sustaining ZOE life as opposed to ordinary humans who are naturally born into (derived) 'borrowed' BIOS life.

"For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself."

[John5:26KJV].

"But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

[Acts3:14-15KJV].

1.4 **ZOE life vs. BIOS life.** Jesus Christ has the power and stature to bestow ZOE life on born again (spiritually regenerated) believers of the Gospel.

[John3:16; 5:24,26,40; 6:40,47,53,54; 8:12; 10:28; 11:25; 12:25; 17:2; 1Corinthians15:22,45].

1.5 **The difference between 'Earthly' & 'Heavenly' bodies.** There are Earthly bodies (for those who dwell on earth) and Heavenly bodies (for those who dwell, or will dwell, in Heaven).

[1Corinthians15:40,47-49; 2Corinthians5:1].

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1.6 **The Second Coming.** The *Second Coming of Jesus Christ* is imminent, but the exact date cannot be calculated or guessed from Scripture.

[Matthew24:1-51; Mark-8:38; Acts1:1-11; Revelation1:7,11-18].

1.7 **The Cosmos to collapse.** The Cosmos as we know it will be destroyed; the Bible says that the 'heaven will depart like a scroll when it is rolled together'; the 'heavens being on fire will together with the elements melt away'.

[2Peter3:7,12; Revelation6:14].

1.8 **There is a 'Great White Throne Judgment' Coming.** [Matthew5:22; 10:15; 11:22,24; 12:36; John-5:22,27,30; 8:16; Revelation14:7; 20:11-15].

1.9 **Jesus Christ the Chief Justice presiding.** Jesus Christ will be the *Chief Justice* presiding over the *Great White Throne Judgment* during the judgment of the nations.

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son."

[John-5:22KJV].

1.10 **Ashamed of Jesus Christ?** Those who have suffered for Christ will sit along with Him in the Judgment of the nations and will also reign with Christ over the nations. Jesus has warned:

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

[Mark8:38].

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2. **The Final Promise.** There's a New Heaven & New Earth coming. Jesus Christ shall feed believers & lead them unto living fountains of waters. God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea ... For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes ... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

[Revelation21:1; 7:17; 21:4KJV].

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Chapter 37

ARE THE DAYS BEING SHORTENED?

1. **On clocks & calendars.** Some time ago I was amazed (and also discomfited) by this strange dream whereby the heavenly bodies (planets etc.) were revolving around the Sun at breakneck speed; for instance was the Moon spinning like a swing-ball and making its rounds in a matter of seconds about 30 times a minute instead of a month, while the Sun was doing the same type of thing, i.e. about one revolution for every 30 revolutions of the Moon, complete as if the spectacle was being engineered and fast-forwarded by some 'Gotham City' type genius.

For a while I was completely perplexed, until it dawned on me that the meaning of it all could be that the days were being 'shortened', i.e., time itself was being 'fast-forwarded' to expedite and rush history toward its 'promised and desired conclusion'.

Obviously, the clocks, watches and calendars would not show it as, technically, timepieces (as well as our eyes & minds interpreting those timepieces) are also being 'fast-forwarded' in conjunction with time itself ... the gambler or gangster would have complained that the system is 'rigged'.

2. **How things have escalated.** Bear in mind that I am not 'selling' this as 'theology' or 'doctrine'; I am simply intuitively trying to make sense of my disturbing, apocalyptic dream. Before the reader, however, is tempted to write my ramblings off as wild conjecture and/or science-fiction, take into consideration how the following phenomena have increased and/or escalated

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(hence the field of study known as 'Eschatology') in these last days:

2.1 Natural disasters e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis, killer floods, hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, cyclones etc. ('climate change').

2.2 Pandemics, epidemics, disease etc.

2.3 Wars, regional conflicts, genocide etc.

2.4 Riots & rioting, demonstrations, civil unrest

2.5 Unbridled migration, border disputes, homelessness, bankruptcies, liquidations & business failures, retrenchments, unemployment

2.6 Crime, corruption, human-trafficking etc.

2.7 The world-population itself.

3. **The Hindustani Times.** This website reports:

> *"Scientists think days are getting shorter than 24 hours because the planet is spinning faster than it has in 50 years and a full day has been taking less than normal since last year. According to the Daily Mail, July 19, 2020, was the shortest day since scientists began keeping records in the 1960s - 1.4602 milliseconds shorter than the full 24 hours. It is a retreat from previous records showing that for decades, the Earth took slightly longer than 24 hours to complete a rotation."*
>
> [Hindustani Times, online].

4. **Suddenly the dream makes sense.** The Bible teaches:

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4.1 Jesus **Christ:**

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

[Matthew 24:22KJV].

4.2 **The Apostle Paul:**

"For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."

[Romans9:28KJV].

4.3 **The Apostle John:**

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him ..."

[Revelation1:7aKJV].

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Chapter 38

HERE COMES THE REAL 'REALITY CZAR'

1. **Trending politics.** It doesn't require a genius to notice the polarization of society today i.e., the separation of those gravitating toward the *Left* (espousing such values as *moral relativism, situational ethics, freethought* and 'repressive [liberating] tolerance') and those on the *Right* (espousing traditional, cosmic freedom in Christ and conservative Judeo-Christian values).

P.S. How the same atheist that has said that the brain is just a collection of thinking atoms directed mechanically by chemical processes (over which we have little if any control) can claim 'freethought' as an important tenet of *secular humanism* boggles our mind (but obviously not theirs).

2. **Liberating Tolerance.** 'Liberating tolerance' refers to the 'journalistic' philosophy and/or practice:

> *"Involving the withdrawal of toleration of speech and assembly from groups and movements on the Right, and the aggressively partisan promotion of speech, groups, and progressive movements on the Left."*
>
> [Encyclopaedia.com/Social Sciences].

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3. **The coming 'Reality Czar'.** The term 'reality czar' apparently was coined by some Leftist leaning newspaper with the idea for government to appoint some 'media ombudsman' kind of person or office tasked to combat and eliminate 'disinformation' ('fake news') in the public domain, an idea probably drawn from the 'Repressive Tolerance' philosophy emerging from the Frankfurt School.

This 'Reality Czar' will obviously have to subscribe to the idea of 'Liberating Tolerance' in the public (media) sphere ideologically so reminiscent of the draconian, despotic & tyrannical days of Josef Stalin and Adolf Hitler. In plain English might we (should this ever come to fruition) perhaps have to say: *"The plot thickens!"* or *"The rot sets in!"*

4. **The real 'Reality Czar' (666).** Be that as it may (in politics currently trending) it would behove citizens the world over to start bracing themselves for the imminent geopolitical arrival of the *real* (not fake) Reality Czar' ('Antichrist') irrespective of anyone's popular 'Rapture Theory' of choice. The Bible says:

> *"And he [ANTICHRIST] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."*
>
> [Revelation13:16-18KJV].

This 'Reality Czar' ('Antichrist') will be preceded by a 'spirit of antichrist' (those who deny that Jesus is the Christ*) in society prevailing in the world at large:

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> *"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."*
>
> [1John2:22KJV].

*'spirit of antichrist': *Atheists, agnostics, skeptics, pagans & neo-pagans, communists, scientologists, spiritualists, astrologists, Christian atheists, secular humanists, religious postmodernists, terrorists, vehement non-Christians representative of the 'spirit of antichrist'.*

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Chapter 39

IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE OF MANY MANSIONS

1. **Jesus and the Father's House.** Jesus Christ has promised:

> *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."*
>
> [John14:2-3MKJV].

2. **In His House the Father has a magnificent Throne.** The Bible says:

> *"And He who sat there looked like a jasper stone and a sardius. And a rainbow was around the throne, looking like an emerald. And around the throne I saw twenty-four thrones. And on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white clothing. And they had crowns of gold on their heads. And out of the throne came lightnings and thunderings and voices. And seven lamps of fire were burning in front of the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. And a sea of glass was in front of the throne, like crystal."*
>
> [Revelation4:3-6MKJV].

3. **Celebrations at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.** The Bible says:

> *"And after these things I heard a great sound of a numerous crowd in Heaven, saying,*

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Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and honor and the power to the Lord our God! And I heard as the sound of a great multitude, and as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of strong thunders, saying, Hallelujah! For the Lord God omnipotent reigns!"

[Revelation19:1,6].

4. **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb.** The Bible says:

"And he said to me, Write, Blessed are those who have been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true sayings of God."

[Revelation19:9MKJV].

5. **The Redeemed Believers divinely transformed.** The Bible says:

"There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly is truly different, and that of the earthly different; Such the earthy man, such also the earthy ones. And such the heavenly Man, such also the heavenly ones. And according as we bore the image of the earthy man, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man."

[1Corinthians15:40, 48-49MKJV].

6. **Comforted by God the Father and Jesus Christ.** The Bible says about the redeemed believers:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is. For the Lamb [JESUS] who is in the midst of the throne will feed them and will lead them to the fountains of living waters ... For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will feed them and will lead them to the fountains of living waters. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes... And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes."

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[Revelation21:1,4; 7:17MKJV].

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Chapter 40

JUST AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

1. **The Prophecies of Jesus Christ.** Jesus Christ has prophesied affirming the historicity of Noah, the Ark and the Genesis Flood:

> *"But as the days of Noah were, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark. And they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man."*
>
> [Matthew24:37-39MKJV].

2. **The Prophet Isaiah affirms the existence of Noah and the Genesis Flood.**

> *"For this is as the waters of Noah to Me; for as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn from being angry with you and from rebuking you."*
>
> [Isaiah54:9MKJV].

3. **The Prophet Ezekiel affirms the existence of Noah.**

> *"And though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver only their own souls by their righteousness, says the Lord Jehovah."*
>
> [Ezekiel14:20MKJV].

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P.S. Ezekiel has, incidentally, also here affirmed the existence of Job. (Some theologians or skeptics erroneously believe that Job was a mythical figure).

4. **The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews affirms the existence of Noah and the Ark.**

> *"By faith Noah, having been warned by God of things not yet seen, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."*
>
> [Hebrews11:7MKJV].

P.S. The rationale behind the skepticism of those who refused Noah's offer of protection can be explained at least meteorologically, but not morally: At the time rain (or a worldwide flood) was part of those probably 'things (phenomena) not yet seen'.

[Hebrews11:7a].

5. **The Apostle Peter affirms the existence of Noah, the Ark and the Genesis Flood.**

> *"... to disobeying ones, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared (in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water ... And He did not spare the old world, but saved Noah the eighth one, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly."*
>
> [1Peter3:20; 2Peter2:5MKJV].

6. **The disciple Luke affirms the existence of Noah.**

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"... the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech."

[Luke3:36MKJV].

7. **Global Warning!** Bear in mind that, just as the citizens from the days of Noah at the time of the preparation of the ark in anticipation of the flood probably had never seen rain (or at least, had never seen a worldwide flood) before, in like manner the nations of today have never seen a 'Second Coming' before ... there is, however, always a 'first time' for everything.

Life can sometimes present many unexpected (nasty) shocks as well as some wonderful surprises. What will the Second Coming be like for the reader ... a nasty shock or a wonderful surprise? It all depends on what the reader decides about Jesus Christ today.

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Chapter 41

PERSPECTIVES ON THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

1. **'Rapture' Definition.**

"In Christianity, the eschatological (concerned with the last things and End-time) belief that both living and dead believers will ascend into heaven to meet Jesus Christ at the Second Coming (Parousia)."

[Encyclopaedia Britannica].

2. **Scriptural Foundation.**

> *"For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we who are who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*
>
> [1Thessalonians4:15-18].

3. **Four Basic Models.** Although I have had several models (from various 'schools of thought') of the 'Rapture' explained to me, I will, for the purpose of this short article, pause at only the four most familiar as alluded to several times before:

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3.1 The 'Pre-Tribulation' Rapture ('Pre-Trib Rapture').

3.2 The 'Mid-Tribulation' Rapture ('Mid-Trib Rapture').

3.3 The 'Post-Tribulation' Rapture ('Post-Trib Rapture').

3.4 The 'No-Tribulation' Rapture ('No-Trib Rapture').

4. **A Word of Caution.** Christians are admonished to comfort one another with words of the Rapture and/or the Second Coming of Christ and readers are welcome to explore the different models as explained by different eschatologists. A high anticipation of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ has always been indicative of a high level of spiritual alertness and vigilance in terms of the parable of the five wise virgins (with their vessels filled with reserve oil) as against the five foolish having taken no extra oil with them (Matthew25:1-13).

Be that as it may, there are basically four models of the Rapture being discussed in Christianity today and each 'exponent' of his respective model will swear by the validity and correctness of his model. However, since *all four models cannot be correct/valid at the same time, three of the models must be consistently incorrect, invalid and untrue all of the time.*

In other words, one day at the time of the return of Jesus Christ, *at least three exponents of three Rapture views of the available four are going to be exposed as having been wrong about the Rapture all the time, i.e., exposed practically as having been 'false prophets' of Scripture.* The last thing any Christian wants to be accused of is the charge of 'false prophet'.

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5. **Two principles to bear in mind.** Two important principles to bear in mind when preaching about the Rapture/Second Coming:

5.1 **As to Historical Events.** When interpreting Scripture i.r.o. *historical events,* Jesus Christ has allowed Christians to differ from each other in terms of doctrinal peripherals, as the Bible allows leeway with errors in Bible exegesis if cardinal teachings i.r.o. the status of Jesus Christ (for instance) as the *Son of God, the Saviour of the world and the long-awaited Messiah of the Jews, the Resurrection* and the *Second Coming* etc. are not compromised. Jesus Christ did not say that those sincerely in error would necessarily go to hell; He has only warned that such could lose 'status' in the kingdom of heaven:

> *"Whosoever therefore (i) shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever (ii) shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*
> [Matthew5:19KJV].

5.2 **As to Future Events.** When it comes to *future (eschatological) events,* however, where 'predictions' or 'forecasts' about the future must be made (i.e., for instance having to interpret those books of the Bible touching on the Rapture and/or Second Coming) the preacher or teacher is by default immediately catapulted into the risky theological arena of 'prophecy' as a 'prophet'.

5.3 **Doing the math.** All four of the abovementioned Rapture models cannot be right, valid and true at the same time, so in the end, *in Eternity one day, three of the models are going to be exposed as having been in error all the time,* and from

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Scripture we know that God takes a dim view of false prophets (even with the best of intentions) prophesying falsely.

So although I personally have a favourite Rapture-view, I nevertheless take care not to 'swear' exclusively by my point-of-view as if I, a fallible human, am not capable of error or misinterpretation; I try to maintain an open-minded attitude always learning about the subject in the good faith that sooner or later the best way to interpret Scripture in this regard will reveal itself to me as the events prophesied in the Bible slowly begin to unfold and 'escalate' over time, or, as Winston Churchill used to put it, as the *'onion of history is peeled bare layer after layer after layer as time goes by'* (my paraphrasing).

5.4 **Definitions.** I stand to be corrected and do not want to be dogmatic about it, but I honestly get the impression that where things usually are getting 'muddled' about the time of the Rapture it could be ascribed to one single issue, i.e., *applying a different interpretation and/or meaning to the word 'tribulation':*

- Some eschatologists speak as if the word 'tribulation' encompasses the totality of the end times (the worldwide persecution of believers and the church by the forces of darkness including the end-time pouring out of judgments on the wicked and ungodly); it may be described as the era of the *wrath of Satan (against Christianity)* culminating in and superseded by the *wrath of God (against the ungodly).*

- Some, on the other hand, speak as if the word 'tribulation' only means the persecution of believers worldwide (all Christians including messianic Jews etc.)

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with the end-time judgments against the ungodly as a separate event.

It would appear as if Jesus' discourse on the end times (Matthew24:3-51) where He uses the term 'tribulation' He referred to the era of the *persecution of the church* (the *'Ecclesia') by the Antichrist only.* In other words, it would appear as if the use of the blanket term of 'tribulation' for both the eras of the *persecution of the church* and *outpouring of wrath (Judgments)* could be erroneous. It would appear as if the term 'tribulation' as meant in Matthew Chptr24 points to the persecution of the Church (including Messianic Jews) and not to End-time 'wrath' ('Judgments') on the ungodly, as believers are not appointed to wrath.

Once eschatologists can settle the issue of the true definition of the word 'tribulation' most of their differences about the time of the Rapture would probably begin to diminish into obscurity, and may that day arrive sooner than later.

6. **Conclusion.** Be that as it may, I am very wary of Bible eschatologists who are always so cocksure about their interpretation of the prophecies of the Bible, especially i.r.o. the time of the Rapture and/or the Second Coming. Interpreting the Old Testament and the New Testament gospels and epistles retrogressive may be 'Scripture exegesis', but interpreting the prophecies i.r.o. the expected time of the Rapture goes further than 'exegesis' ... it may actually constitute *prophecy,* especially if one 'swears religiously & dogmatically' to one's favourite model.

Such prophecy may be right, but it may also be 'wrong' (false), since *all four of the models discussed above can impossibly be valid/true at the same time.* I have seen Christians (!) engaged in debates over this issue allow their temper to rise to a point where

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they hurl all kinds of verbal abuse and insults (in social media) at each other just a few inches (metaphorically speaking) short of assault and murder ... who on earth needs such a kind of Christianity? Be that as it may, the test of a true prophet:

> *"And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."*
>
> [Deuteronomy18:21-22KJV].

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Chapter 42

PLANET EARTH AT THE END OF DAYS (PROPHECY)

1. The Prophet Isaiah (Approx. 470 B.C. during the days of the Babylonian Captivity & Cyrus the Great).

"Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him. The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word. The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left. The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh.

"The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it. There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone.

"In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction. When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done. They shall lift up their

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voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the LORD, they shall cry aloud from the sea.

"Wherefore glorify ye the LORD in the fires, even the name of the LORD God of Israel in the isles of the sea. From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.

"Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.

"The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

"And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously."

[Isaiah24:1-23 KJV].

2. Jesus of Nazareth (Approx. 33 A.D.).

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

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[Matthew24:29-30KJV].

3. **The Apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost (Jerusalem).**

"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come."

[Acts2:20KJV].

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Chapter 43

THE CRAZY MARCH TO MARS

1. **Back to Basics.** Amidst the unbridled euphoria driving scientists, astronomers, astrophysicists, cosmologists, sci-fi authors and dreamers in their mad 'scramble for Mars' I must caution citizens everywhere not to get carried away *too far or too soon* (pardon the pun) in the quest to create a 'colony' on Mars for now. Reasons:

1.1 **The human race in its present form will not conquer the Universe.** It is simply too big. At an estimated diameter of 93 billion light-years (the visible Universe) even the nearest large galaxy, *Andromeda*, is 2.5 million light-years away meaning that even at the speed of light (300 000 k.p.s) it would take man 2.5 million years to reach. The stupendous size of the Cosmos is hopelessly beyond the reach of man in his present form; clearly, we were not created to become 'Masters of the Universe' just yet in our physically challenged bodies of such fragile 'cosmic' potential.

1.2 **Planet Mars.** Even were it technologically possible to one day put a community on the floating desert of Mars (with an average distance from Earth of 225 million kilometres and an inhospitable environment, i.e. barren & dry; oxygen-starved at 0.13% against Earth's 21%; water locked-up in ice-caps; weaker gravity; thin atmosphere posing cosmic rays dangers etc.), who in his right mind would really want to live on Mars? If we can't even make a success of such a five-star miracle of

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an oxygen and water rich blue planet as planet Earth, how do we propose to make a success of such a remote desert planet?

Seriously, if the experts want convince us of possible success, let them first successfully conquer, normalize, fertilize and populate the *Sahara, Arabian, Gobi, Patagonian, Great Victoria, Kalahari, Great Basin, Syrian, Namib & Death Valley* deserts before attempting something as ambitious as life-on-Mars. We cannot even keep our oceans and cities clean, for goodness' sake.

Besides, without any oceans where on Mars are colonists going to dump their sewage, plastic bags, fishing lines, empty plastic bottles, used teabags and tissues and discarded KFC boxes? Do we really want to take to space with the reputation as just another marauding band of sophisticated, alien 'locusts' in search of prosperous neighbouring planets to loot, strip bare and annex?

Perhaps the time has arrived for wannabe astronauts and cosmonauts to cut their umbilical cord to Hollywood and its hosts of deluded science-fiction driven script writers and come down to earth (again, pardon the pun) for a normal life in the suburbs with Hattie and the kids.

The type of technology needed to conquer the Universe is open to holy angels only and there are no way ordinary mortals are going to be allowed to muscle in on their operation; read the Bible ... the *Book of Revelation* does not allow for colonies on Mars for the foreseeable future. When we ignore Biblical revelation and prophecy, we ignore it at our peril.

2. **The Blessed Hope.** Living on Mars? I refuse to live in a climate-controlled plastic bubble on such a comatose excuse for a planet; my hope is invested in the promises of Jesus Christ:

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"Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."

[John14:1-3MKJV].

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

"And he that sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.' "

[Revelation21:1-7KJV].

A wise man has once written:

" Only one life that will soon be past; only what's done for Jesus Christ will last!"

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Chapter 44

THE END OF THE AGE

1. **Science & Technology.** I do not have any prophetic gifts or clairvoyant abilities, but I have a strong hunch, nevertheless, that Science (as we know it) has arrived at that juncture where it will experience three of its biggest 'career' setbacks ever.

2. **Proposition #1. A 'Theory of Everything'.** Stephen Hawking's dream of a *'Theory of Everything'* will never in this life be realised. The Bible teaches that no man can know or tell the secret behind the beginning and end of everything:

> *"He has made everything beautiful in His time; also He has set eternity in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end."*
>
> [Ecclesiastes3:11MKJV].

I believe that the meaning in this scripture must interpreted to applied both *(i) chronologically as regards time & history* as well *as (ii) geographically* i.r.o. *space & cosmos.* Jesus Christ says:

> *'I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty ... saying, I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. Also, What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to Pergamos, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea ... And He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who thirsts I will give of the*

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fountain of the Water of Life freely ... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last."
[Revelation1:8,11; 21:6; 22:13MKJV].

3. **Proposition #2. Time Travel.** There will never be any *'Time Travel'* for mankind on Earth. The idea of time travel will remain a pipedream for Hollywood to make movies about, and that's about how far it will go. Although the Bible does reveal that angels are not bound by our time and calendar constraints and are able to do time travel, nowhere in the Bible (as forecast in the *Book of Revelation* up to the *Great White Throne Judgment* (in Heaven) are humans credited with the uncanny ability to do time travel of any kind while in mortal bodies here on earth, i.e., for the foreseeable future.

4. **Proposition #3. Conquering the Universe.** There will never be any significant (commercial & *en masse*) 'Space Travel' worthy of note happening beyond the rudiments of our own solar system. Space tourism, although prohibitively expensive, may be on the cards to a certain modest extent and world powers may well, in future, be able to develop 'Star Wars' type defence systems to deploy in deep space; in fact, I would recommend that the West do it post haste, because forces in the Orient are probably already doing it anyway.

The Bible teaches that, at the time of the *Second Coming of Christ*, the 'Beast' and his allies will be so brazen and self-confident that they will actually challenge Jesus Christ and His armies to a dual, probably in deep space far above the earth.

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth and their armies, being gathered to make war against Him who sat on the horse, and against His army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet doing signs before it, (by which he deceived those who had

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received the mark of the beast), and those who had worshiped his image. The two were thrown alive into the Lake of Fire burning with brimstone."

[Revelation19:19-20MKJV].

5. **No time for Jokes.** The time for 'foolin' around has passed. People everywhere are called to repentance and faith in Christ, no matter what the technology will be doing in the meantime to make our work lighter and our lives easier and/or more interesting. Life is about God, Eternity and Salvation, not about technology and the newest 'executive toys'. The Bible teaches:

"For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and if every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"

[Hebrews2:2-3aMKJV].

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Chapter 45

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS: FAST AND FURIOUS!

1. **The Questions that Matter.** In contrast to the Holy Bible, there is not a book from an atheist on earth that can answer the questions below even remotely 'coherently':

1.1 Why is there *something instead of nothing?*

1.2 Where do we come from?

1.3 Why are we here?

1.4 Is there something such as Absolute Truth?

1.5 How do we decide between Right and Wrong?

1.6 Who is the Ultimate Moral Authority in the Cosmos as the Author & Source of my Moral Compass?

1.7 Is there Life after Death?

1.8 Should the Bible still be trusted?

1.9 Where are we going after we die?

1.10 Will there be a Great White Throne Judgment as envisaged in the Bible?

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1.11 Will Jesus Christ really be the Chief Justice presiding over the Great White Throne Judgment?

1.12 Will there really be such places as Heaven and Hell?

2. **Mankind's Destination: The Great White Throne Judgment.** In contrast to the man who has said that life is a journey in search of the 'right' shampoo for one's hair (he only found his at the age of 73) the Bible teaches that we are pilgrims on a journey to our final destination in life ... the *Great White Throne Judgment* in Heaven at the end of this age, as seen in a vision by the Apostle John on the isle of Patmos many centuries ago:

> *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."*
>
> [Revelation20:11-12KJV].

P.S. The Bible makes a distinction between (i) the judgment of those who have rejected the Gospel's call to repentance and faith in Christ as LORD and Saviour and (ii) those standing before Jesus Christ's 'Bema Judgment Seat' for the rewarding of the faithful. Jesus Christ has warned:

> *"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels."*
>
> [Luke9:26KJV].

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3. **The Pilgrim's Progress: Fast & Furious!** Mankind is rushing to its final precipice (the ultimate destination) at breakneck speed. Take into consideration:

3.1 The *velocity (speed) of the Earth* in its orbit around the Sun: 107 000kph (67 000mph)!

3.2 The *Solar System's speed* around the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy: 828 000kph (518 467 mph)!

3.3 The *Local Group of Galaxies' speed* toward the 'Great Attractor', a region almost 150 million light-years from us: 3 600 000kph (2 254 205mph)!

3.4 The *Earth's (consolidated) speed* toward the 'Great Attractor' with *CBR (Cosmic Background Radiation)* as frame of reference: 1 404 000kph (879 140mph)!

The Bible says:

> *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"*
>
> [1Peter4:17,18KJV].

References

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Chapter 46

THE SANDS OF TIME ARE RUNNING OUT

1. **A more convoluted world these days.** The world is becoming more convoluted by the day. For instance, were I to take a carpet, say 13.02m^2 (3.10m x 4.2m) and try and lay it down on the floor of a room only 12m^2 (3m x 4m) I would have a serious problem; the carpet would become a 'convoluted' mess with bulges and irregularities all over the floor. This is what I believe is happening with the world today.

Just as there was a time for everything in world history, so the time for the Second Coming of Christ will eventually, suddenly dawn on a sleepy, ignorant and dismissive world. The Bible says:

> *"To every thing there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pull up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*
>
> *"a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*
>
> *"a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. He has made everything beautiful in His time; also He has set eternity in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end."*
>
> [Ecclesiastes3:1-11KJV].

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2. **Days are being shortened!** As alluded to before have I had the most interesting dream some years ago where the sun and the moon were 'revolving' (figuratively speaking) like two 'swing-balls' on rope, with the moon actually flying at the breakneck speed of dozens of revolutions per minute. I was mystified about the dream until I realised that God may be showing us that He will, eschatologically speaking, be 'shortening the days' soon exactly as promised in the Bible:

> *"For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth ... And unless those days should be shortened, no flesh would be saved. But for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened."*
> [Romans9:28; Matthew24:22MKJV].

3. **Here's what's probably happening.** Just like the analogy of the oversized carpet, the ('oversized') days are being shortened with more of 'required history' having to be fitted (chronologically) into a geopolitical 'surface' ('era') too small for all the events raining down on the world in torrents much too overwhelming to be safely and orderly accommodated, causing all the political and social 'convolution' in society today. So, what are we to do?

4. **Going to God's Throne of Grace.** All Christians have direct access to the *Mercy Seat* and *Throne of God* by the *Blood (Sacrifice) and Righteousness of Jesus Christ:*

> *"Therefore, brothers, having boldness to enter into the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He has consecrated for us through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts*

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sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies having been washed with pure water."

[Hebrews10:19-22MKJV].

No longer is a priest or mediator other than Jesus Christ, the one and only *High Priest and Mediator* between *God and man,* necessary.

"For God is one, and there is one Mediator of God and of men, the Man Christ Jesus."

[1Timothy2:5MKJV].

5. **Free prayer minutes.** All believers have 1440 FREE prayer minutes per day that must be used wisely. It cannot be carried forward or accumulated and once lost, it's lost forever.

"Pray without ceasing."

[1Thessalonians5:17MKJV].

Recommended Song

1. YouTube. *'The Green Leaves of Summer'.* From the film, 'The Alamo'. Online 2021.

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Chapter 47

THE SECOND COMING: IS IT STILL ON?

1. **The Postmodernists Say No!** If the postmodernists could have their way they would obviously say, *"No!"* In their 'theology' *(sic)* Jesus Christ was or is not the Son of God, did not rise from the dead and won't be coming back; the Gospel story of the New Testament with affirming Epistles (allegedly) is just one gigantic historical hoax and pseudo-theological scam.

2. **Scriptures affirming the Return of Christ.** Without complicating the matter with a debate over the exact timing of the *'Rapture'* and how it fits in with the study of *Eschatology,* bear in mind that the *New Testament* is quite emphatic about the imminent return of Christ with the tell-tale signs becoming increasingly common day by day e.g.:

- The proliferation of all kinds of false or bogus 'Christs', 'messiahs', 'gurus' and false 'prophets'.

- Wars & rumours of wars.

- Nations & kingdoms rising against each other.

- Famines in various parts of the world.

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- 'Pestilences' (Pandemics, epidemics & plagues) all over the world.

- Persecution of Christians, Christian leaders & Churches (and of course other religious minorities) in various hotspots in the world (e.g., China, North-Korea, India, Pakistan etc.).

- Increasing iniquity (e.g., anarchy, arson, destruction, mob rule, public looting & violence, vice, crime, injustice, immorality etc.).

- The (anecdotal, astrological & astronomical) observation of 'signs' in heaven from the sun, moon & stars etc.

- Anxiety among nations i.r.o. the sea and waves roaring (e.g., killer-floods, typhoons, hurricanes, tsunamis etc.).

- The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (published, broadcast etc.) in all the world.

[Matthew24:1-51].

2. **Where is the Promise of His Coming?** Skeptics are now tempted to ask, *"Where is the promise of His Second Coming?"* while casting all kinds of aspersions on the character of Jesus Christ. Ironically, *this question itself* constitutes the gilt-edged guarantee highest on the list of tell-tale signs of the Second Coming so proving that we are living in the 'last days':

> *"First, knowing this, that there will come in the last days scoffers ... and saying, Where is the promise of His coming ...?"*
>
> [2Peter3:3a, 4aMKJV].

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Chapter 48

THE ULTIMATE SPACE PROGRAMME

1. **The failure of Scientism.** *Scientism* (i.e., in plain language, the worship of *Science* as the ultimate and only solution to all of humanity's challenges and problems) has failed mankind dismally. Some propositions:

1.1 **Proposition #1. Science: Servant or Master?** *Science* is an excellent servant but a notoriously bad master. To mankind it has given fantastic solutions and many welcome conveniences, while at the same time providing ever more powerful and sophisticated weapons and lethal toxins with which to disfigure and/or kill defenceless men, women and children.

1.2 **Proposition #2. The 100% Mortality Rate.** If after centuries of 'scientific progress' and 'progressive evolution' *(sic)* and no end in sight for violent crime waves, wars, natural disasters; organised and opportunistic (institutionalised) crime; government fraud & corruption, human-trafficking; lethal & debilitating accidents; pandemics & epidemics; disinvestment, massive retrenchments, dismissals and unemployment; bankruptcies and liquidations; homelessness and with even our traditionally most successful of cities beginning to look like war-zones with homeless people eking out a living on sidewalks and

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pavements, has *Scientism* been making any significant strides at all?

Truthfully, with a 100% mortality rate for mankind (for every generation and every nation) after (so-called) '13.8 billion of years of stellar evolution', '4.54 billion years of terrestrial evolution' *(sic)* on planet Earth and 'millions of years of human evolution' *(sic)* has *Scientism really* been making any progress at all? Who do they, i.e., the geniuses with their multi-million-dollar government/taxpayer and/or corporate sponsored research grants, think they are bluffing?

The ultimate insult (on top of the 100% mortality rate that Darwin's patent, i.e. 'Evolutionism', cannot cure) was the invention of expediency abortions in terms of which, according to *Worldometer.com,* 125 000 babies are *daily* 'aborted' expediently (i.e. culled like unwanted wild animals) as if the 100% mortality rate for every generation really needed any help from us ... it is anthropological stupidity elevated to a new *avant garde* art form in a runaway multi-billion dollar industry feeding frenzy for the super-rich medical fraternity specialising in that crime against humanity.

Who knows how many geniuses they haven't killed this way, and probably including the gifted scientist that might have invented the most effective vaccine for the Coronavirus by January 2019?

1.3 **Proposition #3. Debt-ridden countries.** Science has so far failed to solve even the most obvious of problems, i.e., America's trillion-dollar debt; in South Africa we are still not recovering from a multi-billion-rand government state capture scandal and peoples' bank heist. Runaway inflation is destroying pensions (the little that is left after the bungling with pension funds, as some pension funds appear to have disappeared into thin air).

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The *ICC (International Criminal Court)* should declare the fiddling with and employing of pension funds (that is, if it is happening) for any other purpose than 'for pensions' (interdepartmental budgetary cross-fertilisation) a crime against humanity. As 'Murphy' has warned, if you fiddle with something long enough it will break.

1.4 **Proposition #4. The 'scramble' for Mars.** Science's recommended solution, i.e., *human settlements on the Moon and on Mars,* will not cut it for us; we can't even provide housing, running water and sanitary conditions for rundown shantytowns in our own backyard, how are we going to manage 'space-slums' millions of miles away in space-technology's 'artificial paradise' of 'technological Bedouins' trying to survive in climate-controlled plastic bubbles?

As mentioned earlier, we cannot even tame and modernise our own deserts (Sahara, Namib, Kalahari, Death Valley etc.) but they want to go and tame planetary wildernesses a zillion times bigger and zillions of miles farther away. We cannot even provide proper housing, sanitation, schools and education, health services and careers for our people on this lush, blue, forested and oxygen-rich oasis of a planet Earth, but they want to migrate to wildernesses in outer space devoid of any oceans to dump their garbage in.

2. **The Ultimate Space Programme.** There is only one type of person who is blinder than a totally blind man, and that is the person with eyes who refuses to see. Mankind has no hope of ever conquering this majestic Universe ... it is simply too huge, too foreboding and too mysterious. In fact, it was probably *designed* to be too big and foreboding for us to conquer, that is, to conquer in our present form and with our present portfolio of gifts and capabilities as a 'species'.

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Even the most gifted of scientists have conceded that they only know about 5% of what is going on in the Cosmos, the rest (95%) is still *'undetectable by scientific instruments dark matter and dark energy'.* Marine biologists say they only know about 10% (worst case scenario) or 20% (best case scenario) of what is going on in the world's oceans, yet scientists and bored billionaire entrepreneur-astronauts want to migrate to Mars in primitive (and practically obsolete) fuel-powered space shuttles with no guarantee that they will ever be able to come back again.

Here's the deal: First tell us what that (mysterious) *95% of dark matter and dark energy* in the Cosmos is all about and that (mysterious) *80% or 90% of unmapped and unresearched oceans* are all about before we get into a primitive, obsolete, loose-cannon of a ramshackle fuel-powered space-shuttle with you.

Just as not everything (if anything at all) Bertrand Russell ('Atheism'), Karl Marx (Communism/Socialism), Charles Darwin (Evolutionism) and Sigmund Freud (Psychoanalysis & Psychotherapy) have taught was meant to be taken seriously, not everything Jules Verne has 'prophesied' *(sic)* was meant to be taken seriously too. There is a huge difference between the meaning of the words 'prophesied' and 'prophelied'.

As the Jewish philosopher, Joshua Loth Liebman once wrote:

> *"Mature humans are those who have learned to become artists in the true values of life."*
>
> (My paraphrasing).

One of those values in today's topsy-turvy world is the gift and skill to discern the difference between *science* and *science-fiction.*

3. **The Ultimate Space Programme (Revisited).** Already two millenniums ago the Apostle Paul has already warned about the

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difficulties and challenges facing humans in respect of the challenges of the Universe when he wrote:

> *"But someone will say, How are the dead raised up, and with what body do they come? Foolish one! What you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow the body that is going to be, but a bare grain (perhaps of wheat or of some of the rest).*
>
> *"And God gives it a body as it has pleased Him, and to each of the seeds its own body. All flesh is not the same flesh; but one kind of flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another of fish, and another of birds. There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly is truly different, and that of the earthly different; one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.*
>
> *"So also the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.*
>
> *"And so it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul," the last Adam [JESUS CHRIST] was a life-giving Spirit. But not the spiritual first, but the natural; afterward the spiritual. The first man [ADAM] was out of earth, earthy; the second Man [JESUS CHRIST] was the Lord from Heaven.*
>
> *"Such the earthy man, such also the earthy ones. And such the heavenly Man, such also the heavenly ones. And according as we bore the image of the earthy man, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man."*
>
> [1Corinthians15:35-49MKJV].

4. **What we have learned from the Apostle Paul.** Considering his remarkable insight into Creation i.r.o. the 'anthropology' of mankind, it would seem as if the Apostle Paul already, in his day, was way ahead of today's scientists by at least two millenniums.

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What we have learned from the Apostle Paul in this short passage above:

4.1 **The seed.** The human body is a 'seed' (not unlike a grain of wheat) that must fall in the ground to *die* before it can be raised in the glory of a better ('enhanced') body. A good example was Jesus Christ, whose natural, earthy body was *sown in corruption, dishonour and weakness* and eventually raised three days later *incorruptible and in glory, power and a spiritual body.*

4.2 **Adam the first man.** There never was any such a thing as *'evolution',* any so-called *'hominid precursors to modern man'* or even a so-called *'pre-Adamite race'* as the Darwinian creationists would want us to believe; in the abovementioned Scripture reference Paul clearly declared *Adam the 'first man'.*

4.3 **From earthy men (and women) to heavenly men (and women).** The Apostle Paul clearly states that, *as we bore the image of the earthy man, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.* It is this *heavenly man* that will ultimately be allowed to travel and enjoy the riches of the Cosmos and beyond that today's entrepreneur scientists and astronauts & cosmonauts want to accomplish with a space-age type of technology (as compared to the technology that Jesus Christ can offer) for all intents and purposes on par with a ramshackle 19th century kerosene (paraffin) stove.

5. **The credentials of the Apostle Paul.** Should the skeptic wonder who the Apostle Paul was and why he could know these things, bear in mind that he probably has, like a Moses of old on the Mount Sinai when he received the Commandments and

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stone-tables from God, spoken from first-hand knowledge about these things. He writes:

> *"Indeed, it is not profitable for me to boast. For I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ fourteen years before (whether in the body, I do not know; or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows) such a one was caught up to the third Heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), that he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not allowed for a man to utter."*
>
> [2Corinthians12:1-4MKJV].

6. **The days and promises of Jesus Christ.** Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ ('Anointed One') and Son of God must have been exasperated at times with the ignorance and unbelief of the time, especially among the theologians (academics) of His age. He once told Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews:

> *"If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things? And no one has ascended up to Heaven except He who came down from Heaven, the Son of Man who is in Heaven.*
>
> [John3:12-13MKJV].

Had the educated giants of the days of Jesus Christ been more willing to listen to Christ, we probably would have known infinitely more about the Cosmos today than we do, but be that as it may, the *ultimate space programme* can only be launched by the *Ultimate Scientist, Jesus Christ* Himself.

> *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also ..."*

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"Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him ..."

[John14:2-3; Revelation 1:7MKJV].

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Chapter 49

THERE'S A NEW WORLD COMING!

1. **Pop-Up cards.** 'Pop-Up cards' (to create the illusion of depth in greeting cards) reportedly were very popular during Victorian times and with a resurgence of the craze during the 1980s. The new technology of 3D-printing has taken the quest of mastering 3D images a quantum leap further, and many are looking forward to such envisaged entertainment technologies as commercial 'hologram-television'.

2. **The New World coming.** Readers who dabble in layman 'Quantum Mechanics' surely must have read by now that some cosmologists have already begun to speculate that the whole Universe may be just one gigantic 'hologram' of a magnificent *(virtual) 3D Cosmos.* As a Christian I won't go that far (yet) but it cannot be denied that we are living in a mysterious Universe where galaxies and galaxy clusters drape from celestial ceilings like gorgeous (prohibitively expensive) chandeliers. Some notes:

2.1 **True 3D?** I have a hunch that we do not have the slightest idea what 'true 3D' really looks like, and that, when we one day should be privileged enough to enter the Father's glorious *'House of Many Mansions'* God's true 'Home' will 'pop up' in front of believers' eyes into true SUPER-3D', a place so wonderful that the Apostle Paul either was *(i) not 'allowed' to describe the wonder of the place* or *(ii) he did not have the 'vocabulary' to describe it with* or simply nor *(iii)*

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could not grasp that world with his earthy 'BIOS-curtailed' mind.

"I know a man in Christ fourteen years before (whether in the body, I do not know; or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows) such a one was caught up to the third Heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), that he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not allowed for a man to utter."

[2Corinthians12:2-4MKJV].

2.2 **Earthy vs. Heavenly bodies.** There's a huge difference between *earthy bodies* and the *heavenly bodies* of the redeemed saints in heaven. The Bible teaches that, as we bore the image of the earthy man [ADAM], we shall also in Eternity bear the image of the heavenly Man [JESUS CHRIST] as alluded to before:

"There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the glory of the heavenly is truly different, and that of the earthly different; one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

"So also the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

"And so it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul," the last Adam [JESUS CHRIST] was a life-giving Spirit. But not the spiritual first, but the natural; afterward the spiritual. The first man was out of earth, earthy; the second Man [JESUS CHRIST] was the Lord from Heaven.

"Such the earthy man, such also the earthy ones. And such the heavenly Man, such also the heavenly ones. And according as we bore the image of the earthy man [ADAM], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man [JESUS CHRIST]."

[1Corinthians15:40-49MKJV].

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2.3 **The Day of the Lord.** The 'Day of the Lord' will come as a 'thief in the night' during which (i) the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise and the (ii) the elements will melt with fervent heat and the earth will burn up.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat. And the earth and the works in it will be burned up.

"Then, all these things being about to be dissolved, what sort ought you to be in holy behavior and godliness, looking for and rushing the coming of the Day of God, on account of which the heavens, being on fire, will melt away, and the elements will melt, burning with heat?

But according to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

[2Peter3:10-13MKJV].

2.4 **Eternal Life for believers in Jesus Christ.** Those who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour will live forever, though they (today) may die.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him ... Jesus said to her, I am the Resurrection and the Life! He who believes in Me, though he die, yet he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

[John3:16-17; 11:25-26MKJV].

2.5 **The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is at hand.**

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"Behold, He comes with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, and those who pierced Him will see Him, and all the kindreds of the earth will wail because of Him. Even so, Amen."

[Revelation1:7MKJV].

3. **The Promise and Invitation of Jesus Christ.**

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."

[John14:2-3MKJV].

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Chapter 50

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST?

1. **Introduction.** Theories about the identity, nationality and origins of the coming *'Antichrist',* the *'Beast'* from *The Book of Revelation* (i.e., the *'Man of Sin', 'Son of Perdition', '666'* etc.) abound. An interesting observation is that there are only two people in the Bible who are both referred to as *'The Son of Perdition',* and they are *Judas Iscarioth* and the *Antichrist.*

Some theologians believe they actually may be the same man. Be that as it may, the *'spirit of antichrist'* refers to some of the attitudes that were prevailing during the era of the early Church and will be trending increasingly in society (eschatologically) as the *Second Coming* becomes more imminent.

> *"And he [the 'Beast'] causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.*
>
> [Revelation13:16-18KJV].

> *"While I [JESUS] was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition [JUDAS ISCARIOTH]; that the scripture might be fulfilled."*
>
> [John17:12KJV].

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"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition [BEAST; ANTICHRIST]."
[2Thessalonians2:3MKJV].

2. **What Jesus Christ taught.** Jesus has said:

2.1 *"Everyone who denies the Son neither has the Father. The one confessing the Son also has the Father."*
[1John2:23ISV].

2.2 *" He who believes on the Son of God has the witness in himself. He who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he does not believe the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God has given to us everlasting life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."*
[1John5:10-12MKJV].

2.3 *" For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him."*
[John5.22-23MKJV].

2.4 *"The one hearing you hears Me, and he who despises you despises Me; he who rejects you also rejects Him who sent Me."*
[Luke10:16MKJV].

3. **A doctrine without Jesus Christ?** The Apostle John (the 'Beloved Disciple', not John the Baptist) **has** taught:

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"Everyone transgressing and not abiding in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ, he has both the Father and the Son."

[2 John1:9MKJV].

Those philosophies, religions, denominations, churches & spiritual leaders who insist on preaching a historical Jesus devoid of any divinity (e.g. 'Jesus Seminar', 'Christian Atheists', 'Nuwe Hervormers' etc.) should bear in mind that without Jesus Christ, i.e. God's paschal lamb slain for the sins of the world, they stand naked, defenceless and without the professional counsel of the only Heavenly Advocate qualified to ever successfully plead their case, now and in Eternity:

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

[1John2:1-2KJV].

4. What is the 'Spirit of Antichrist'?

"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He who denies the Father and the Son [JESUS] is antichrist ... And this is the antichrist you heard is coming, and even now is already in the world."

[1John2:22; 1John4:3bMKJV].

"I [JESUS] counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

[Revelation3:18KJV].

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Chapter 51

ZERO HOUR!

1. **Eschatology.** *Eschatology* refers to the study of the 'End Times' or 'Last Days' as elaborated upon in *Old Testament prophecies*, the *New Testament Gospels & Epistles* and the *Book of Revelation*. Notwithstanding the apocalyptic events to be anticipated in terms of these studies and the possible future roles of e.g., *China, North Korea, Russia, the Arab & Iranian block, Israel and the Middle East* in general, Christians have a duty to go and *preach the Gospel to all nations* without fear or favour despite prophecies regarding these nations.

2. **China.** So, irrespective of what the future holds and how nations and governments in the future will fit into the anticipated mosaic of events as prophesied in the Bible, God's truth should be allowed to inexorably march on; the dogs bark, but this great *Gospel Caravan* just keeps rolling along! It is e.g., significant that the Gospel is growing in China at a rate *of 7% p.a.* and that, according to a recent BBC report, China will be *>50% Christian* by the year 2030.

3. **Armageddon.** Irrespective of the reader's predilection for whichever view on the *Rapture (e.g. pre-Trib, mid-Trib, post-Trib or No-Trib)* or how *Armageddon* will play out in the *Valley of Megiddo in the end times,* what really matters here is that the uninformed atheist, agnostic or secular humanist, who rarely (if ever) reads the Bible, should take cognizance of the fact that the

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day will come when time will have run out and when Jesus Christ will appear in the clouds of heaven in great power and glory.
[Revelation1:7-8].

4. **Zero Hour! The Million-Rouble Question.** Considering their toxic *anti-Christian* vitriol and blasphemous and profane *anti-Bible* rhetoric, how are they all, at the last minute, ever going to retract their harsh words and bilious atheistic publications from the shelves of bookshops, libraries and private collections all over the world in time to escape the wrath of God? The Bible warns (read the last pages!):

> *"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains. And they said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him sitting on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb."*
>
> [Revelation6:15-16MKJV].

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Chapter 52

READ THE LAST CHAPTER!

1. **The last days of Hitler.** In his book, *'The Last Days of Hitler',* Hugh Trevor-Roper elaborates on the brutal and unforgiving Nazi-movement that had taken so many millions of lives during WW2. Followed by Albert Speer's *'Inside the Third Reich',* Victor Klemperer's *'I Shall Bear Witness'* and so many others one stands speechless at the way these people (described by Trevor-Roper as 'monkeys') had gone on a rampage of such a stupendous scope and brutal intensity that I today can only describe it as the most dreadful mugging of an entire nation in the history of the world.

2. **The sweet comfort of 20/20 hindsight.** The comforting thought is that, when reading history on the Nazi regime today we can at least go back and sneak a peek at the last chapters of such publications to release the tension that the rehashing, i.e., of how everything had finally played by the end of the war and the 1940s, has had on the mind. For instance:

2.1 **Adolf Hitler:** Death by suicide in his bunker in the Chancellery Garden.

2.2 **Josef Goebbels.** Death by suicide in same bunker (together with wife and six children).

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2.3 **Hermann Göring.** Death by suicide (and so cheating the hangman out of a hanging at Nuremberg in the Spandau prison).

2.4 **Heinrich Himmler.** Death by suicide while in flight from the Allies and after having been discovered trying to cross a British command post all dressed up as an ordinary soldier.

2.5 **Reynhard Heydrich.** Assassinated; ambushed by Czech agents from the resistance with a roadside bomb while driving.

2.6 **Martin Bormann.** Mysteriously killed by some anonymous party while fleeing the approaching Russian & Allied armies.

2.7 **Joachim Von Ribbentrop.** Sentenced to be hanged at Nuremberg prison.

2.8 **Rudolf Hess.** Life sentence (Nuremberg), eventually to commit suicide in prison during the 1980s.

2.9 **Albert Speer.** Sentenced to 20 years imprisonment where he studied the works of the eminent German theologian, Karl Barth for what it was worth; divorced his faithful wife after release from prison to marry the reporter who had been interviewing him in Spandau prison.

P.S. Bear in mind that the author does not pronounce 'divine judgment' on these Nazi leaders per se, a judgment that remains exclusively the prerogative and domain of the Creator, and specifically the prerogative and domain of Jesus Christ, because He is the Son of Man. Heinous and reprehensible though their crimes may have been, none of us

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have an inkling what possibly may have transpired (i.e., between God and man) in the last few seconds of these peoples' demise.

3. **Reading the last chapter.** Imagine (hypothetically) if these Nazi bigwigs were able to read the last chapter of *'The Last Days of Hitler'* in advance long before the outbreak of WW2 in 1939 with a chance to review and reverse that portion of history, how different could things not have turned out for them and for the world! Be that as it may, we are privileged enough today to already be able to read the last chapter of the Bible, and it says:

3.1 **'Last Chapter' message to the ungodlly & wicked.** The Bible warns:

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

[Revelation20:15KJV].

3.2 **'Last Chapter message to believers.** The Bible promises:

"*And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away ... And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude ... saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."*

[Revelation21:4; 19:6bKJV].

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INVITATION

"For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

[Romans6:23MKJV].

"I call Heaven and earth to record today against you. I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that both you and your seed may live."

[Deuteronomy30:19MKJV].

RSVP

I herewith today accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour by accepting His invitation to Repent and believe the Gospel.

Signed

Date

"And after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel."

[Mark1:15-16MKJV].

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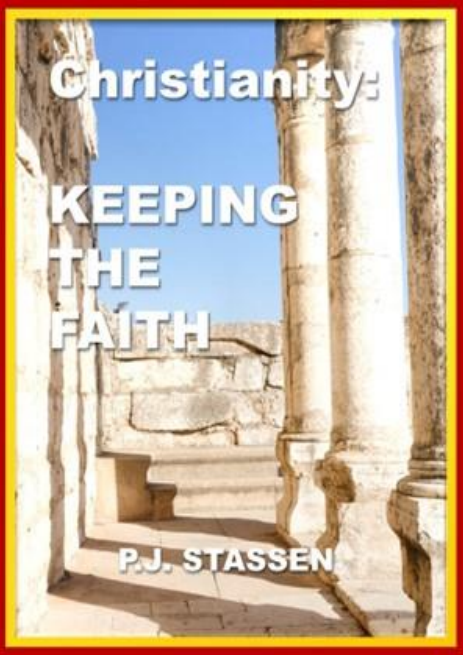
AUTHOR PROFILE

P. J. Stassen, born in 1947 in Randgate, South Africa, holds a B.A. degree in Industrial Psychology & Sociology (Industrial) from the University of South Africa. A former businessman who, after mandatory military conscription, spent the first 12 years of his life in 1966 in the field of retail (Textiles & General Dealer) in a family business begun by his father in 1964, thereafter worked at various other jobs eventually arriving in the fulfilling position of a corporate trainer with *Kumba Resources* (formerly *Iscor Iron Ore Mine*) in the Bushveldt region of South Africa during the years 1986 and 1997. At the time of his retirement in 2013 he was engaged in *Occupational Health & Safety Training* in the corporate environment on a contract basis for a Johannesburg company.

P.J. Stassen and his wife are both retired and live in Centurion, South Africa after having also served in their capacities as gospel musicians (pianist & organist respectively) in churches in two of South Africa's nine provinces, e.g., in places like Vanderbijlpark, Bloemfontein, Thabazimbi, Sinoville and Centurion.



Son of God, Son of David and Son of Man, He came to die for His own creation and for the sins of the world.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ; offered to all but forced on none.

Only one life that will soon be past; only what's done for this humble Carpenter-Rabbi from Nazareth will last.

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